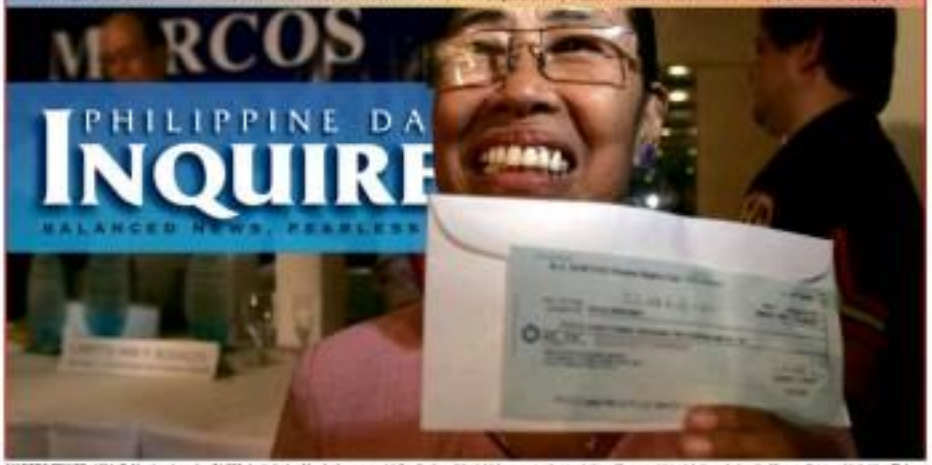
Tuesday, March 1, 2011 | 5 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 81 | P18 | www.inquirer.net



MARCOS CRIMES Hilda B. Narciso shows her $1,000 check during Monday's ceremonial distribution of the initial compensation to victims of human rights violations during the Marcos dictatorship held at Club Filipino in San Juan City. Narciso was brutally abused by the military in 1981 in Davao City while working as a church activist.

Martial law victims get $1,000 checks

By Leila B. Salaverria

NO AMOUNT of money can bring back a lost son or erase memories of torture and detention, but a court ruling ordering the man behind those horrors to pay the victims provides a measure of comfort to the victims of martial law abuses.

"The pain is still with us and I share it with other Filipinos whose children or husband had suffered — We never forget," Cecilia Lagman, who lost her son Jeremiah during the Marcos regime, said yesterday.

No monetary compensation will erase suffice, Lagman said as the program ordered the first 12 of those who suffered from the human rights violations at their hands, received their $1,000 checks from lawyers led by Robert

FIRST BATCH A1 »

DFA chief fetches Pinoys from Tripoli

'Smile diplomacy' prevails amid conflict

By Volt Contreras, Philip C. Tubeza and Jerry E. Esplanada

USING what the Philippine foreign secretary called "smile diplomacy," some 440 Filipinos made the dangerous journey from troubled Libya to Tunisia on Monday, through desert roads dotted by government and rebel checkpoints, some manned by armed teens and heeled up with tanks and antiaircraft guns.

"I think the cool was with us," acting Foreign Secretary Alberto del Rosario yesterday said of the six-hour drive he and the evacuees took from Tripoli, the Libyan capital.

Aboard a hundred buses Filipinos await a similar journey by land out of Tripoli, which is still controlled by forces loyal to embattled Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

In Benghazi, one of the first cities to oppose Libya to fall to anti-Gadhafi forces, several thousand Filipinos will be evacuated to Crete starting Tuesday by a ship that the Philippine government has chartered. Del Rosario said

EVACUATION A10 »

NATION IN TURMOIL Antigovernment rebel rebels brandish AK-47 rifles and shout slogans as they prepare for possible attacks by pro-Gadhafi loyalists at a checkpoint in Ajdabiya area, 150 km southeast of Benghazi on Sunday.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Lifestyle / C3
World dance champions bring new moves to Manila

Business / B1
PH is 3rd most optimistic economy

Libyan rebs seize more towns; Tripoli roads deserted

TRIPOLI, Libya—Protests mounted on Monday on Libyan border Mountain Gadhafi after rebels overran towns in his traditional western stronghold and the West moved to send its first evacuees and to Libya's rebellion in the east of the country.

In Geneva, a top United Nations human rights official called on all nations to back the popular revolts shaking the Arab world.

In the rebel-held city of Zawiya, 46 kilometers from Gadhafi's stronghold in the capital Tripoli, the rebels demonstrated their increasing military coordination and firepower on Sunday, as defecting officers took steps to establish a unified command while their followers displayed tanks, Kalashnikovs and antiaircraft guns.

In a further sign of their strength, the rebels also talked about tapping revenue from the vast Libyan oil resources now under their control—contrasted by some oil company officials to be about 60 percent of the country's total.

LIBYA A10 »

Apl.de.ap ups stake in Nimoy, Cory project

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ALLAN PINEDA, better known as apl.de.ap of the Grammy Award-winning hip-hop group Black Eyed Peas, has found the "people power" spirit in him and agreed to take on the role of special ambassador for celebration of the ceremony new

APL.DE.AP A10 »

'The King's Speech' is best picture

HOLLYWOOD—"The King's Speech" was crowned best picture at the Academy Awards ceremony with the monarchy drama leading an expected web's Joan Chaves and predictable favorites claiming acting honors.

Colin Firth as stammering British ruler George VI in "The King's Speech" earned the best actor prize on Sunday, while Natalie Portman won best actress as a debutante ballerina in "Black Swan."

The looming drama "The Fighter" captured both supporting acting honors, for Christian Bale as a boxer turned drug-abuser and Melissa Leo as a boxing diva counting-arm tough matriarch.

"The King's Speech" also won the directing prize for Tom Hooper and the original screenplay Oscar for David Seidler, a beloved stuttering himself.

"I have a feeling my career

THE KING'S A17 »

BEST ACTOR Colin Firth accepts the Oscar for best performance in "The King's Speech" at the 83rd Academy Awards on Sunday in Los Angeles.

Short film by Fil-Ams wins Oscar

By Rubeni V. Magalso
Los Angeles Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—"God of Love," directed by Luke Matheny and produced by Filipino-American Gigi Bonoan and Stefanie Wahlberg, with Stephen Dypiangco, as producer for marketing and distribution, won the closed but live action short film during Sunday's Academy Awards.

In his acceptance speech, Matheny thanked the Fil-Ams who helped him make the movie about a live-struck boxing-singer who receives a look of

SHORT A17 »

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Baguio	Partly cloudy	Cloudy with rain
Dagupan City	Partly cloudy	Cloudy with rain
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cloudy with rain
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Cloudy with rain
Legazpi	Mostly cloudy	Cloudy with rain
Tacloban	Mostly cloudy	Cloudy with rain
Iloilo	Mostly cloudy	Cloudy with rain
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly cloudy	Cloudy with rain
Zamboanga	Mostly cloudy	Mostly cloudy

2PCD	12 32
3D	20 12
6/49	7 11
SUERTRES	
1 AM	4 2 7
4 PM	5 9 5
9 PM	0 6 8

FOUR DIGIT	7 6 8 5
MEGALOTTO 6/45	3 5 11 30 32 44
	P14,912,442.00
LOTTO 6/42	14 29 32 41 51 54
	P30,000,000.00

'Merci never filed raps vs Joc-joc'

By Cynthia D. Rabasa and Nikko Dizon

REPRESENTATIVES of militant party-list groups said yesterday they would submit a certification from the Sandiganbayan showing Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez's "gross inaction" on graft cases when impeachment hearings resume today.

Party-list representatives from Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, Gabriela and Salinlahan, in addition to Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) secretary general Jaime Tadeo, one of the complainants against Gutierrez, held a press conference the certification showed that no criminal or civil cases were filed by the Ombudsman against former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante and former Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo in connection with the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

This despite the results of the Ombudsman's five-year field investigation that found Lorenzo and Bolante liable for graft and malfeasance of public funds, as well as for falsification and a string of administrative complaints, Romero said.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. had said he would not stop the House committee on justice from proceeding with the hearing on the impeachment complaint today despite a new appeal to stop it filed by Gutierrez with the Supreme Court.

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said the P728-million fertilizer fund scam was a strong case that the Ombudsman "should've ignored."

The two agriculture officials were investigated for the alleged diversion of fertilizer funders borrowed guarantees during the presidential campaign of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004.

'Biggest stumbling block'

"Her impeachment is the first step in removing the biggest stumbling block to the prosecution's quest for justice," Mariano said.

He said that immediately after the 2004 election, the KMP filed a plunder case before the Ombudsman against the President Arroyo Bolante, and others officials implicated in the fertilizer fund scam.

"For seven years now, not one case has gathered dust at the Ombudsman's office," Romero said.

The Senate committee on agriculture in the 13th Congress and the Senate blue ribbon committee in the 14th Congress also recommended the filing of plunder charges against Lorenzo and Bolante.

"Despite farmers' claims for justice and the Senate's recommendations, the Ombudsman let the fertilizer fund case rot only through a seemingly endless legal process that gave legal leeway to plunderers," Ramon said.

"Gutierrez did not only skip on one case but she could have either to choose farmers and economy or the manipulators," he charged.

Meanwhile, Gutierrez filed yesterday a motion for reconsideration of the Supreme Court's earlier ruling allowing Congress to proceed with the impeachment proceedings against her.

Bad, dangerous precedent

In her motion, the Ombudsman argued that the high court erred in its ruling because it "allowed to venture a bad and dangerous precedent" by allowing the lawmakers to proceed.

She said the complaint against her was "cushioned on a vague, ill-defined letters, and worse, on a hearsay basis" and therefore ought to be killed by the Constitution, the discretion to determine when a mandatory self-executing constitutional provision can be invoked."

She argued that the high court "erred in sharply deviating from the doctrine" established in the impeachment case of then Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. that an impeachment proceeding begins from the date of the filing of the complaint and it is the date of the vote you base on impeachment.

Gutierrez said the vote departed of her right to due process.

Aside from procedural lapses, Gutierrez also said the resolution "exists with no intent." But denied "the bias and vindictiveness" of justice committee chair Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. against her. The committee, she said, acted in obvious haste and disregarded its own standards when it declared the two impeachment complaints sufficient in form and standard.

Read-along teaches cleanliness, helpfulness

STUDIES about reading not to the community and helping others marked the Inquirer Read-Along session last Saturday, a commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the 1986 People Power revolution.

Around 60 children attended the session geared by reigning Miss Philippines-Air Bea-ee McHugh and emerging story teller Gian Sophia Schloe.

Also present were members of the Rotary Club of Makati who brought their Books Across the Seas (BATS) project to Inquirer Read-Along and donated 2,000 books as part of the club's 40th anniversary celebration.

McHugh said Anna Dragon's "Silken Color Come to Town," a tale of an ethnic community that revived its natural color after its people learned their dyeing.

Raised in New York, McHugh's origin as Miss Philippines-Air has brought her to different parts of the country for the Miss Earth Foundation's various environment activities and projects. She takes campus tours and storytelling sessions.

Despite being unable to express herself well in Filipino, McHugh relayed well to the children with her endearing accent and phrasing. She also gamely responded to questions after the story.

"It's really important to be educated. You have to be honest. It's not if you're not here anymore doing to visit about, you would be a boring person," McHugh told the kids. "So you have to read and study," she added.

An archaeology major, McHugh told the dozens assembling on history and classic literature, "reading teaches you a lot."

Meanwhile, returning Inquirer Read-Along girl Esther Ann Jimenez, Mary Estella and Melanie Bautista visited the story, "Ang Ilong Pahoy ni Lingit," written by Rose Villanueva and illustrated by Rocco C. Cinco-Ilano. The tale is about a pig who crashed heaven by virtue of his cloudiness.

Sophia School grade school-ers Jasper Amadeo, Andrea Monet Campomanes and Kristelly Anne Serrano also shared a story about friendship, "Langgam at Tipaklong," as retold by Alfred Yuzon.

In partnership with DLSand Bradbart's Bradbot Foundation, the Rotary Club's BATS project donates books to children across the country. The project has given away 13 million books to public schools and libraries nationwide in its 19 years of existence.

"One of the main thrusts of the club is education and we feel that Inquirer Read-Along shares the same advocacy. We look forward to being a regular partner in the sessions," club secretary Francis Macaraig said.

Present were club president Jay Rene and club Trans, the club's past president and current Inquirer director Charlie Rufino, incoming club director Linda Rufino, and other club members.

Selling among the patrons were Gelina Amadeo, proud mother of student scientist Jasper. "She is really fond of reading and this is the first time I saw him read aloud in front of an audience," she said. "I am really glad that there are interventions like Inquirer that help promote the importance of reading."

The next session will be on March 12 at 1:30 p.m. in the Inquirer main office, Mezzanine. Interested participants may contact Elbie Cipariso at 4078866 ext. 316 then see available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Inquirer Research

MISS EARTH Philippines-Air Bea-ee McHugh gets the children's attention with her bouncy and her accent. *PHOTO BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA*

Pampanga cadet tops PMA class

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A fellow Kapampangan will receive on Sunday the Presidential Saber from President Noynoy Aquino after he topped the 2011 graduating class of 150 cadets at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

Cadet First Class Angelo Edward Reyes of Apalit, Pampanga, secured the coveted honor of topping the Lion Ahh Class of 2011 a gift to himself on his 22nd birthday on March 13. Reyes is joining the Philippine Navy.

From his salutatory class mustard "Sayful" to Baccalaureate Address to Sybil, Elder Brain-Powered "Mr. von Schwarz."

"My decision to apply to the PMA was (essentially) a naive dream. I was just seeking adventure and I wanted to be challenged. That's why I entered this academy," said Reyes, who was a second-year computer science student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, when he entered the PMA.

Only one woman made it to the top 10 this year.

Cadet First Class Janice Mae Ragos of Baguio City, placed 8th and is the highest ranking female cadet to join the Philippine Air Force.

She will also be one of the four female graduates to be awarded the Athletic Saber for exemplary sports skills.

Mohagan excels in marksmanship, swimming and military and is one of Lion Ahh's 22 female cadets.

The other top graduates are Cadets First Class John Gering, Ilocos Sur, second; Ricquelle Bernardo, Ilocos Norte, third; Christopher Lorenzo, Abra, fourth; Jerome Cornel Ortiz, Albay, fifth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, sixth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, seventh; Gregor Pamilton Ortiz, Albay, eighth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, ninth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, tenth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, eleventh; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, twelfth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, thirteenth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, fourteenth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, fifteenth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, sixteenth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, seventeenth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, eighteenth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, nineteenth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, twentieth.

Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, twenty-first; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, twenty-second; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, twenty-third; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, twenty-fourth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, twenty-fifth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, twenty-sixth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, twenty-seventh; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, twenty-eighth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, twenty-ninth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, thirtieth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, thirty-first; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, thirty-second; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, thirty-third; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, thirty-fourth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, thirty-fifth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, thirty-sixth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, thirty-seventh; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, thirty-eighth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, thirty-ninth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, fortieth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, forty-first; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, forty-second; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, forty-third; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, forty-fourth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, forty-fifth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, forty-sixth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, forty-seventh; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, forty-eighth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, forty-ninth; Jhon Robbie Ortiz, Albay, fiftieth.

Beware of Facebook 'likes,' drug agency warns Pinoys

By Jaime H. Aurelio

BE WARY of foreigners suddenly "liking" you on Facebook or other social networking sites, an official of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) advised netizens.

PDEA spokesperson Derick Carreon said many drug mules or persons used to transport drugs through international borders were befriended and recruited online.

"Some of the mules or couriers we interviewed said they were befriended through the Internet by foreigners, then later on, becoming," he said in a forum in Quezon City.

Comparing the cases with those of Filipinos being personally approached by recruiters, the PDEA official said recruitment of online "recruitment" of drug mules were new on the use.

Many Filipino drug mules have been arrested and convicted abroad of drug trafficking. In China, some are facing the death penalty.

"A big percentage" of those arrested, Carreon said, were recruited through online networking sites like Facebook.

"It's the new norm in dissemination, but be wary of foreigners 'liking' you on Facebook," he said.

Carreon, in a presentation, noted that those at risk of being victimized by such modus were poor Filipinos with little or no educational background.

"It's the lure of easy money and going abroad. Some things to watch out for are groups of foreigners on the Internet who're often friend," he said.

Celso Hernandez Jr. of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration's (POEA) Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch said Filipinos looking for overseas jobs should always go the legal way.

According to POEA data, drug syndicates may make up to $3,000 for each successful drug mule they recruited or bought, while others are promised jobs abroad.

She added: said it took her to an illegal recruitment would be framed soon in order to give the POEA more heroes to can after illegal recruiters.

"Through a task force, we will be empowered to conduct more operations and arrests," the POEA official said.

The agency, he added, would include a booklet on the dangers of being a drug mule in the pre-orientation seminars it would be overseas workers.

Carreon said they are also launching a media campaign to warn Filipinos about the dangers of being a drug courier for such syndicates.

Some of the reminders include not accepting packages from strangers at airports, and not being hired too easily by big money.

'Chavit' tells Speaker son quitting House

By Cynthia D. Balana

ILOCOS Sur Rep. Luis "Chavit" Singson on Tuesday night formally notified Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. of the resignation from the House of Representatives of his son, Ilocos Sur Rep. Ronald Singson, who was sentenced to 10 months in a Hong Kong prison for drug trafficking.

In a press briefing Monday, Belmonte said the governor presented to him copy the letter of resignation to him within the week. The resignation will take effect on the day he receives the letter, Belmonte said.

In their brief meeting which took place at about 7 p.m. in Belmonte's Quezon City residence, the Speaker said Singson told him he was not able to talk to his son since his sentencing because Hong Kong police officials detained Ronald Singson after the Wan Chai District Court judge pronounced sentence last Thursday.

Belmonte said Governor Singson thought there was a misimpression that Ronald is coming from the House that Ronald needed to fill out valuable area why he did not bring a resignation letter that night.

"I told Chavit there was no need for him to worry because the letter will be received by the Speaker's office," Belmonte said.

Belmonte said Governor Singson told him that Ronald is coming home to resign from the House because Ronald needed to fill out valuable area why he did not bring a resignation letter that night.

"I told Chavit there was no need for him to worry because the letter will be received by the Speaker's office," Belmonte said.

He said the governor promised to send someone to Hong Kong's La Chi Kok Correctional Institution where Ronald is imprisoned so he could draft the letter himself.

According to Belmonte, Chavit Singson called him up three weeks ago to inform him his son had decided to resign from the House.

The resignation letter will be addressed to the Speaker who will in turn inform the House's ethics committee so it could stop expulsion proceedings against Singson.

Belmonte will then inform the House secretary general to drop Ronald Singson's name from the roll of representatives.

Belmonte said he will also inform the Commission on Elections about the vacancy in Singson's district, so a special election could be held for a new representative.

Belmonte said he had also ordered Ronald Singson's office evacuated before March 1. As to his pork barrel, Belmonte said he will allocate and have released to Singson recently.

Customs police chief must go—Ombudsman

ORDERED by the Office of the Ombudsman for the suspension or dismissal of public officials are immediately executory, according to the agency's spokesperson.

Assistant Ombudsman Jose Balmeo said that as long as there are no injunctive orders issued restraining orders issued by a court, the Ombudsman's orders on administrative cases should be implemented and that officials concerned had appealed the decision.

Dr. Jesus made the statement when sought for comment on the decision of Bureau of Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez to let the customs police chief, Jose Verbongco, stay at his post pending consultation with the bureau's legal and human resources office regarding the latter's dismissal from the service.

The Office of the Ombudsman earlier ordered Verbongco's dismissal in connection with an illegal gun ban scandal. Verbongco was found to have spent possible properties, such as a mansion in Mountain Lake City, a farm in Albay and an apartment in Batangas.

According to Dr. Jesus, the ombudsman's staff is required to implement the Ombudsman's order and no consultation with the bureau's legal office is necessary to carry out Verbongco's dismissal.

Lalin B. Salcedo

"OPERATION BIGAY LUNAS"

66 the Spirit of Service Continues

Today, March 1, 2011, Mercury Drug once again conducts "OPERATION BIGAY LUNAS" (OBL) in 68 cities and municipalities nationwide. The program is an annual, all-day free consultation where medicines are provided to approximately 120,000 beneficiaries. Lectures on dengue and health exhibits, eye sampling, and shampoo treatment, which are part of the OBL's wellness program, are also being held on selected sites.

For more than a decade, the one-day free clinic has provided instant medical aid to millions of Filipinos who do not only get free advice from qualified doctors, but also treatments on various ailments.

This undertaking is in cooperation with our business partners, provincial governors, city mayors/all mayors and other volunteers.

This is our way of thanking you, our customers, who continually support our efforts and commitment to giving you the best in health care.

"OPERATION BIGAY LUNAS" is part of Mercury Drug's Corporate Social Responsibility to improve the quality of health care in the countryside.

Maraming Salamat Po.

mercury drug

MARAMI SIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO!

A joint project with the Mercury Drug Foundation Inc.

Marie France is working for me. It will work for you too!

For almost six years, Sharon struggled against her own battle of the bulge. She came to a point when she asked herself, 'Ako ba papayat pa?'

PROVEN EFFECTIVE – THEN AND NOW!

"The truth is, I first went to Marie France in the 80s after I gave birth to my first daughter. It was so successful that nakapagreggo po ng sis-ters eh. When I piled on the weight in my 40s, I resorted to quick fixes and tried various diets and other invasive methods that ultimately did not give lasting results. Now I'm happy to be back with my old slimming partner – Marie France. I'm so happy to be finally losing weight again!"

SHARON'S MARIE FRANCE PROGRAM

"All women know that as you get older, it's really harder to lose weight. That's why you need to find a system that works. Marie France works for everyone! So far I've lost 20 lbs and 7 inches off my tummy area. The treatments are so effortless! They help melt off excess fat, trim down inches and reduce my cellulite. I'm losing weight steadily and I don't look haggard at all. My skin became even tighter, not lumbo at all. Yepa, I'm working towards losing my next 20 lbs. Can't wait for my next billboard!"

Call Now: 894-BODY (2639)

marie france

HAIRCUT · SET/GLAZE · TONAL HOMBRE · BRONDO · ALABARE · EMMY · CONGRESSIONAL · MARIANGA · TEL: 961-2981 · ORTIGAS · TEL: 635-3437

Saudi Arabia denies Binay visa to visit the King

By Jerry E. Esplanada

VICE PRESIDENT Jejomar Binay, also the Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Workers' Concerns, has expressed disappointment over the last-minute cancellation of his trip to Saudi Arabia.

Binay was in Kuwait, had planned to proceed to Riyadh, the capital of the Middle East kingdom but the Department of Foreign Affairs was unable to get him a visa, Jose Salgado, his spokesperson and media affairs head, told the Inquirer yesterday.

According to Salgado, "the Philippine Embassy (in Riyadh) was unable to schedule an audience with the Saudi King (Abdullah)... He (a) only (this was given to Vice President Binay (by the Saudi government)."

Binay "only learned about the (sic) cancellation when he was already in Kuwait," said Salgado.

"He regrets the cancellation of his visit to Riyadh. He was looking forward to meeting with overseas Filipino workers, and had instructed the embassy to gather in many OFW organizations as possible. The Vice President has directed the embassy to make needed arrangements for a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the soonest possible time," said Salgado.

Asked for a comment, Foreign Assistant Secretary J. Eduardo Malaya, also DFA spokesperson, explained "It's not easy to get an audience with the Saudi king at short notice."

"It takes months, not weeks to get one," Malaya noted.

Foreign Secretary Rafael Seguis had supposedly explained to Binay that the Saudi government wanted to prepare for the vice president's visit "so he could be accorded courtesies commensurate to his stature as the second highest official here, and another Binay staff member.

Piling, meanwhile, has applauded in the Kuwaiti government to pardon 13 Filipinos detained at the Sulaibya Central Jail in Kuwait City.

Carrying President Aquino's letter of appeal to the Kuwaiti authorities, he also urged his hosts to help in the repatriation of 95 troubled OFWs currently staying at the Filipino Workers Resource Center, a facility established by the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait.

In his letter to Kuwaiti Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the President wrote: "On the spirit of brotherly cooperation and humanitarian considerations, I wish to appeal to His Highness' benevolence in granting full pardon to the 13 Filipinos detained in Sulaibya Central Jail who served time for various offenses, and in the most repatriation of 92 distressed workers in the Filipino Workers Resource Center."

"Their coming home at the most opportune time is a celebration(sic) of the spirit of freedom and magnanimity surrounding Kuwait's festivities and the Philippines, as well, as it celebrates the 25th anniversary of the People Power Revolution in Edsa," Mr. Aquino added.

Kuwait is "host to some 170,000 Filipino workers and maintains a lenient policy toward Filipino offenders," said Binay's office.

In 2010, the Kuwaiti leader "extended a full pardon to (Jalaluzzi) May Wesha and ordered the mass repatriation of 749 distressed OFWs. Another 67 OFWs were repatriated to Manila in February," it noted.

In a statement, Binay (yesterday) said he was "coordinating with Philippine ambassadors in the Middle East, particularly those in countries near the Libyan border, for the repatriation of Filipino workers as per instruction of President Aquino."

"Likewise, I have directed all agencies concerned to remain vigilant on the Libyan situation and expand all efforts to ensure the safety of our fellow Filipinos," he added.

WaterCare
HealthWay

Missing nurses' families, friends hold out hope

ILOILO CITY—The families and friends of two Filipino nurses missing in last Tuesday's earthquake in New Zealand continue to stunk the heavens as the fate of the victims remained unknown.

"We are praying very hard even if the situation becomes discouraging as the days go on with no word from them," said Loren Hipolito, a classmate of Nilpain Bonanno and Mary Louise Anne Sinatrillo, in an interview.

Hipolito was among 20 friends and schoolmates of the missing nurses who attended Monday's Mass at the Sto. Niño Chapel in Iloilo City.

Masses have been said daily since the two victims, both 22, went missing after the Canterbury Television building in Christchurch where they were taking language courses collapsed in the 6.3-magnitude earthquake.

Ansan Ho graduated from St. Paul University Iloilo while Peninsula was a former student of the school but graduated from Riverside College in Bacolod City. The two share friends left for New Zealand on Feb. 20.

Their classmates and friends have been trading calling and going online to gather information on the situation as Christchurch and to call for prayers for the two nurses.

"Let us not give up, guys. Keep the candles burning. Don't lose hope. Let us also pray for their families. This is really a difficult time for them," Hipolito appealed on his Facebook wall. — Xander P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

Show Love to Seniors
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
GROHE Super Sale
Get upto 15% discount when you buy any GROHE product.
Promo Period: March 01 - 31, 2011
GROHE
ENJOY WATER
Faucet • Bath / Shower Mixer • Shower Set • Showerhouse • Hydroponics
DEXTERTON

THE DAILY GOSPEL

MARCH 1 (Tuesday)
Psalter: Week 4
4th Week in Ordinary Time
Is 55:10-11; 7-9, 14 and 23

To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

Lent Reading: Mt 10:1-12

Keeping the Lent to month many offerings. Being faithful to the commandments is like a prayer offering.

By sending kindness as an offering of free heart, giving alms is a sacrifice of praise.

Renouncing to pleases the Lord, and observing injustice is a sacrifice of atonement.

Do not appear before the Lord with empty hands. We commend more exquisite that practicing sacrificing.

When the offering of the righteous is burned on the altar, the fat drips down and a fragrant aroma rises to the Most High.

The sacrifice of the just man pleases God and will not be forgotten. Honor the Lord with a generous heart and do not be stingy with the first fruits of your harvest.

Offer your gifts with a smiling face and when you pay your tithes do it gladly.

Give to the Most High as he has given to you; give generously to the Lord according to what you have; the Lord will repay, he will reward you sevenfold.

If you give sacrifices but with gifts he will not accept them, do not rely on offerings from dishonest gain.

The Lord is judge and shows no partiality.

Gospel: Mk 10:13-21

Here spoke up and said to Jesus, "We have given up everything to follow you". Jesus answered, "Truly, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters, or father or mother, or children, or lands for my sake and for the Gospel, who will not receive a hundred times as much now in this time of persecution he will receive a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and lands in the present time and in the world to come, eternal life. Do you remember: Many who were first will be last, and the last, first."

Reflection:

What is the difference of losing something from that of possessing it? Am I really happy when I get what I really want, and sad when I lose it? The question of human being (sic) is a mystery, which I can still unable to comprehend. In following Jesus, there are also times of sadness. I follow him not because of the happiness it brings, but because he first called me and I have decided to answer the call.

Motorists told: Prepare for oil price increases

MOTORISTS SHOULD brace themselves for steeper-than-usual gasoline price hikes this week.

Pilipinas Shell and Petron Philippines were the first to announce increased pump prices—P1.05-per-liter for gasoline and P1.1o for diesel—starting 6 a.m. today. Eastern Petroleum quickly followed suit, announcing a 92 increase for all products effective the same time.

Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr. warned in an interview yesterday that there would be "unusually higher increases" this week due to fears that the unrest in Libya would continue and spill over to other oil producing countries, disrupting the fuel supply.

An industry source claimed a P2 per-liter hike may be in the offing, unless oil firms choose to stagger the fuel price increases.

Layug did not rule out the four-time increase of the Department of Energy (DOE) but made an appeal to the oil companies not to do so, to surrender to implement the hike in order not to confuse the impact for motorists.

An earlier DOE report quoted Victor Abate, senior principal of Purvin and Gertz energy consultants in Singapore, as saying that "unpublished estimates in the crude oil in Middle East hedge oil prices generally higher as traders worry over the potential for supply disruption."

Prices of Dubai crude as of yesterday already passed the $100 mark, reaching $114.42 ($1.05 a barrel, according to Layug.

Saudi Arabia assures buyers

The energy official, however, noted that Saudi Arabia had assured buyers that it had adequate buffer stocks to mix over demand until the Libyan conflict is resolved.

Term the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) gave its assurance that there would be sufficient supply to address global demand in the short and medium term.

To further ensure the stability of the fuel supply in the country the DOE said it would require all oil companies to double their inventories...from 15 days to 30 days worth of supply.

The country's daily fuel consumption is estimated at above 300,000 barrels.

"We want to prevent that and have a buffer stock," Layug said in a phone interview.

Two of the biggest players in the downstream oil industry, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Petron Corp., have assured DOE that tensions in Libya should not be a cause for worry.

The Philippines sources its crude mainly from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Iran.

Last year, the Middle East accounted for 81 percent of crude imports, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, 12 percent; and Russia, 7 percent.

Refined petroleum products, on the other hand, come mostly from neighboring Asian countries, particularly Singapore, except for liquefied petroleum gas which comes mostly from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Last week, the DOE released an Oil Contingency Plan to prepare the country for possible disruptions in oil supply in case the unrest in the Middle East and North Africa continues.

According to the DOE, the plan is composed of three phases: Predict, prepare, and perform. These three phases cover strategies ranging from preparation to actual response, should any supply disruptions materialize. — Amy R. Remo

BRITISH COUNCIL
Education
Discover New Ways
Come and meet representatives from universities across the UK
4 & 5 March 2011, 1PM to 5PM
Ruby Ballroom, Citiwide Plaza Hotel (beside Robinsons Galleria)
Admission is FREE!
Scholarships available at the British Council booth
Pre-register at www.britishcouncil.org.ph before 5 March and attend the event to get a chance to win products from Power Mac Center!
www.educationuk.org

Get a *Mazda CX-7*
for as low as *P16,299** monthly!
Promo extended until March 31, 2011

zoom-zoom

Like us on Facebook
Mazda Philippines
mazda.com.ph

SLIMMERS WORLD

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!

SPECIAL OFFER
FOR THE FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY!

Great Body, Great Skin.

"I lost 78 lbs. of fat & cellulite!"
Runner-Up in the Great Body Contest.
- Charlene Medina

ALL OUR FULL PROGRAMMES ARE GUARANTEED TO GIVE RESULTS!
CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE CONSULTATION!

- NO MONTHLY DUES ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!
- NO JOINING FEES!
- CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%
- MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!

SPECIAL OFFER
FOR THE FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY!

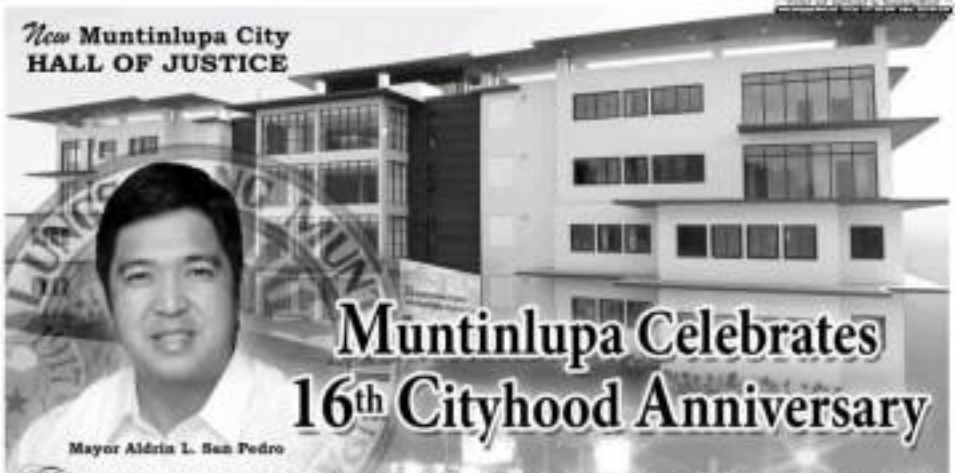
IPL Skin REJUVENATION
for men & women
to give you a supple, radiant, blemish-free & younger skin!

CALL OUR ONE - STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.

FITNESS HOTLINE: **536-3333**
SKIN HOTLINE: **525-8771**
MOBILE NUMBER: **091- SLIMMERS (754663777)**

www.slimmersworld.com.ph * inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

New **Muntinlupa City**
HALL OF JUSTICE



Mayor Aldrin L. San Pedro

Muntinlupa Celebrates 16th Cityhood Anniversary

There is overwhelming reason to be upbeat as Muntinlupa marks a milestone in its political history since 1995 -- this rising city in the metropolis of more than half a million population.

The city, with a united population that waves community discipline as a signature and source of its strength, is definitely on the road to progress. The local government unit, through City Mayor Aldrin L. San Pedro, has laid decently, as it were, on the table for its residents and outsiders, stakeholders all, for their appreciation the direction it has set for them. The city, which has notched awards in a stream of enviable achievements during Mayor San Pedro's term, has shifted to higher gear, while demonstrating its will in giving residents a place where they can have a sense of peace, law and order, a friendly environment, a rule of justice, and pride, among others.

It has also blazed a trail -- being lionized up to be other LGUs not only in the national capital but in other areas of the archipelago. Without doubt. Blazing such a trail has not been without disturbing bumps as Muntinlupa slowly but steadily moves forward with zeal and determination.

The city, which has a projected annual revenue of P2.85 billion, is now plan-to-free -- thanks to a determined local government unit whose leaders are committed to a safe and clean environment.

Local officials took one step closer to this by enacting Ordinance No. 10-139, banning the use of plastic and other non-biodegradable materials for packaging by all establishments within the city's borders.
Effective January 30 last year, the City government took the cudgels for the residents and started implementing the ordinance unanimously passed by the City Council.

Muntinlupa thus became the first Metro Manila City to ban the use of plastic bags in wet and dry goods and styrofoam/styrofoam as food containers a year after the Sangguniang Panglungsod enacted the law. Public and private establishments have been given ample time and space to make the necessary adjustments with the new ordinance in force.

At the helm of the local government unit, Mayor San Pedro has institutionalized policies that helped sustain and bolster the city's growth. And he acknowledges the support of his constituents. "With the support of our able citizens, we have created an environment encouraging to both local and foreign businesses."

This has led to a surge boom in various industries that has put Muntinlupa on what San Pedro calls "the cutting edge of the 21st century." These industries include real estate development, information technology and business process outsourcing.

The local government unit has also ensured that every resident can enjoy the benefits of such development, giving them to his political creed "Tulay-kalsy ng Serbisyo."

But while it looks to the future with zest, hope and well-placed enthusiasm, the present leadership acknowledges its debt to its historical past. Said San Pedro: " It is a reminder that everything we do today, while inevitably tied to the future that came before us, is ultimately for both the city and our children's future."

But as Mayor San Pedro has said: " progress and development can go hand in hand with environmental protection". Added the Mayor: "Several profitable and issues akin to climate change can be and need to be approached with far more greater vigor and commitment not only by government and business, but more importantly by every individual person working in partnership with all sectors of society."

According to San Pedro, whatever gains from such progress and development "would be brought to naught if concerns for the environment would be set aside and treating whatever environmental degradation brings that adversely affect human lives are treated less than what it deserves."

"I do not subscribe to the common perception that progress and development are here to the environment. They are not contradictory. But one has a balancing effect on the other."

With his knowledge and experience in business and law, the erstwhile youngest municipal councilor and later youngest city councilor of Muntinlupa, has turned his skills in local governance, with his sights and mind focused towards the upliftment of his constituents. His dream, in his own words is to see the Muntinlupa City "a continuing growth and development for investors and locators to be attracted continually, increased or enhanced quality of life for all Muntinlupeños."

He chooses to see his constituents "enjoy the fruits of my unceasing quest for improved peace and order, drug-free Muntinlupa, better infrastructure and facilities just like what is expected when the skyway extension is completed, among others."

At the same time, San Pedro looks at the future where public servants in the city "would be as committed and dedicated ever to the delivery of basic services to the entire constituency."

As Muntinlupa marks its 16th anniversary as a city, it counts among its blessings the presentation of the 4-storey new Hall of Justice in Brgy. Tunasan where the different levels of the judicial sector are housed under one roof. This will centralize the administration of justice, seen to hold at the front portion of the multi-million peso edifice, as "the fourth pillar of government."

There are no signs Muntinlupa City will rest on its laurels. With a dynamic leadership that inspires enthusiasm here in residents, many look forward to yet another celebration perhaps in a greater magnitude 365 days hence.

MUNTINLUPA CITY 16th CITYHOOD ANNIVERSARY
PROGRAM of EVENTS
March 1, 2011

7:00 AM ..... Holy Mass ..... New Muntinlupa City Justice Hall
8:00 AM ..... Program Proper
- National Anthem ..... Muntinlupa City Brass Band
- Muntinlupa March ..... Hinig Muntinlupa
- Welcome Remarks ..... Hon. Artemio A. Simundac, City Vice-Mayor
- Intermission Number
- 4th State of the City Address ..... Hon. Aldrin L. San Pedro, City Mayor
- Presentation ..... New Muntinlupa Justice Hall

2:00 PM ..... Inauguration of New Health Center ..... Soucille T. Brgy. Poblacion
7:00 AM to 3:00 PM ..... Medical Mission ..... Brgy. Cupang Elem. School
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM ..... Jobs Fair ..... SM Muntinlupa Event Center

'Don't blame mothers' deaths on Church'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE 11 MATERNAL deaths that occur in the country daily should not be blamed on the stand of the local Catholic Church on reproductive health (RH) but on the poverty caused by corruption and social inequalities, said a church official yesterday.

Msgr. Jesusito Figura, secretary general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), as moral protectors who respond to the CBCP office in instructions on Sunday that the clergy "do not in any way downplay these women's situation."

He also stressed that the Church was one in urging the government to effectively address the real causes of poverty that worsen the plight of Filipino women.

"Corruption, lack of economic and social services, lack of access to education and the benefits of development, social inequities ... these are the reasons for the deaths and sufferings of many Filipino women, especially the poor," Figura said.

Figura's statements were a reiteration of the CBCP pastoral statement issued last month and was to appear in a letter Bill advocates delivered to the CBCP office on Sunday.

Figura said he was answering the letter in the absence of CBCP president Tarcisio Bishop Arwin Celestino, who is in Rome.

The protesters' letter had read: "[We don't] support that the CBCP stops preaching. But we do support you to cure as follow Filipinos who preach about love, especially for the poor."

"We expect that although all of you are men, you have learned sympathy and affection from your mothers, your sisters and your women friends."

The protesters on Sunday carried 11 lighted candles representing the maternal deaths that occur in the country daily.

Members of the Pamilya ng Kung paano (PNK) and the Reproductive Health Advocacy Network, the protesters said they hoped the bishops would finally stop opposing the RH bill pending in Congress and escalate the plight of Filipino women.

"We want to inform the Catholic hierarchy that its continued opposition to the RH bill has been causing 11 maternal deaths daily" said Judy Ann Dizon Miranda, PM secretary general.

She said 50,000 women had died in the last decade due to poor maternal care and lack of access to methods and information on birth control.

Figura said the RH bill would not contain the root causes of poverty. "It can even worsen the already bad and present problems," he said.

Among the principal reasons bishops reject the RH bill is "its overall reductionist approach: population control, and its intention to "use public funds to subsidize contraceptives and sterilization services" to achieve population control, Figura said.

He said that instead of an RH bill, the government must establish more hospitals and clinics in the rural areas and deploy more health personnel to make health services more accessible to the poor.

Taiwanese boat crew in mishap

THE PHILIPPINE [illegible] during the mass [illegible] Manila hospital.

Ballit said the ship continued on its journey, leaving the five crewmen behind in Manila. AP

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

This is to inform the public that **T.C. Pharmaceutical Industries Company Limited (TCPI)**, a Thailand-based company, is the legal owner and manufacturer of Red Bull Energy Drink ("Red Bull").

A recent newspaper notice said that a writ of preliminary injunction ("Writ") has been issued by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court restraining TCPI from terminating the exclusive distributorship rights of Energy Food and Drinks, Inc. (EFDI). **Contrary to said notice, the exclusive distributorship agreement between TCPI and EFDI has long been terminated way back in 2008 due to various breaches by EFDI.**

The notice also warned the public that anyone caught selling, buying, distributing and consuming Red Bull shall be held criminally, civilly and/or administratively liable. However, **there is nothing in the said writ which prevents anyone from selling, buying, distributing and consuming Red Bull. What is prohibited is the termination by TCPI of the exclusive distributor agreement, which as mentioned, has long been terminated.**

RED BULL

Further, there is nothing in the Writ which states that, "Energy Food and Drinks, Inc. remains the exclusive distributor of Red Bull Energy Drink products in the Philippines." Neither does the Writ prohibit the public from "selling and/or buying, distributing and/or marketing and/or consuming Red Bull Energy Drink products brought into the Philippine market by parties other than by Energy Food and Drinks, Inc." as written in the said newspaper notice.

The Writ merely states:

1. Pursuing the summary termination of plaintiff's exclusive distributorship rights in the Philippines;
2. Establishing, authorizing or licensing anyone, directly or indirectly, other than the plaintiff to act as distributor of RED BULL ENERGY DRINK PRODUCTS, and to use any of the proprietary marks of the defendant in the Philippines; and
3. Directly or indirectly taking out any advertisement in any medium whether print, radio or television, or holding out to any person or entity other than the plaintiff as the Exclusive Philippine Distributor of Red Bull Energy Drink Products.

"Likewise, the parties in this case are hereby ordered to maintain the status quo ante pending this civil action."

Thus, TCPI would like to assure the public that the sale, distribution, buying, and consumption of Red Bull products is neither unlawful nor a criminal act under the Writ. The public is hereby advised to take precaution against any misrepresentation about TCPI and/or Red Bull intended to mislead the public.

MARTINEZ VERGARA GONZALEZ & SERRANO Law Office
Suite 2401 The Orient Square, F. Ortigas, Jr. Road, Ortigas Center
1600 Pasig City, Metro Manila, Tel. No. 687.1195

Counsel For:
T.C. PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES CO., LTD. (Thailand)
Trade Mark Owner of RED BULL Energy Drink

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MARYLAND DISTRIBUTORS, INC. is the only authorized **IMPORTER** of Red Bull Energy Drink products in the Philippines.

Maryland Distributors, Inc. is duly licensed under Philippine law to import and sell Red Bull Energy Drink products.

Contrary to claims in a full-page advertisement that appeared in The Philippine Star issue of February 23, 2011, this Notice and Advisory to the Public makes clear that:

Selling or Buying of Red Bull Energy Drink product is not a crime.
Distributing or Marketing of Red Bull Energy Drink product is not a crime.
Consuming or Drinking Red Bull Energy Drink product is perfectly legal.

RED BULL

There is no law or court order in the Philippines that declares that the selling, buying, distributing or marketing of Red Bull Energy Drink is illegal.

Misleading information is currently being circulated about the product and its importer. We therefore advise the public to be vigilant and to report to the undersigned cases of harassment when buying, selling, distributing, marketing, consuming and drinking Red Bull Energy Drink product.

RED BULL is still the WORLD'S NUMBER NO. 1 ENERGY DRINK enjoyed by millions!

Atty. Aquilino L. Pimentel III
Counsel for **Maryland Distributors, Inc.**
Authorized Importer of Red Bull Energy Drinks
Unit 2106, Atlanta Center
No. 31 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, 1503 Metro Manila
Tel. No. 658-9457

Libyan rebels seize more towns; Tripoli roads deserted

From page A1

But the Gadhafi regime clamped down on its rebellion in Tripoli, where loud prizes have skyrocketed. Military, plainclothes police and other paramilitary forces kept the deserted streets of the capital under a lockdown.

Prices shoot up

The two sides in Libya's war on opposed entrenched, and the direction it takes next could depend on which can hold out longest.

Gadhafi's opponents, including increasing army units, hold nearly the entire eastern half of the country, much of the oil infrastructure and some cities in the West. Gadhafi is dug in in Tripoli and nearby cities, backed by better armed security forces and militiamen.

In the capital, there were attempts to restore aspects of normalcy, residents said. Many stores downed their opened, and traffic in the streets increased.

Long lines were formed outside banks by Libyans wanting to receive the equivalent of $400 per family that Gadhafi pledged to hold to shore up public loyalty.

One resident said pro-Gadhafi security forces were manning checkpoints around the city of 2 million. She said the point of this, a main one, she had gone up 500 percent until the crisis, reaching the equivalent of $40 for a five-kilogram bag.

'Help protesters'

But there were signs the strongman's grip on power was slipping even further.

Believing to the events shaking the Arab world, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay said in Geneva on Monday that "the international community bears the great responsibility of extending its support to words and deeds."

She told the UN's Human Rights Council: "The world must help the protesters quickly consider new changes before better controlled investors begin to reassert themselves, or new threats emerge."

Pillay said grassroots warned that the international community can often put stability, the status quo and trade in valuable natural resources ahead of essential human rights.

Military options

In recognition of the insurrection's growing power, US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Sunday said the United States was considering one to the rebels as "offer any kind of assistance," while Italy suspended a nonaggression treaty with Libya on the grounds that the Libyan navy "no longer exists."

In Doha, Prime Minister Francois Fillon on Monday said that France was sending two planes with humanitarian aid to Benghazi, the opposition stronghold in eastern Libya. The planes were carrying "tents, medicines and medical equipment.

"It will be the beginning of a massive operation of humanitarian support for the populations of liberated cities," he said on RTL radio.

Fillon said Paris was studying "all solutions"—including military options—to find Gadhafi unilaterals that he should go, that he should leave power."

Rebel-held city

The most striking display of the rebels' strength was exercised Tuesday, one of several cities near the capital now controlled by rebels, after heavy explosions reported attempts by Gadhafi's forces to retake them.

Residents around the rebels displayed helped to explain how they held Zawiya.

"Army, army, army!" exulted residents shouted, pointing to a defected soldier standing watch in Zawiya's main square as he raised his machine gun in the air and held up two fingers for victory.

A few meters away, a captured antiaircraft gun, fired several deafening salvos into the air, and pleased residents invited newsreporters to gather aboard one of several filthy tanks now in rebel hands.

Scores of residents armed with machine guns and rifles joined in a chants that has become the slogan of protesters in uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen and across the Arab world: "The people want to bring down the regime!"

Family assets: $31B

The maneuverings by both sides suggested they were girding for a confrontation that could influence the shape of other protest movements and the responses of other nations who feel threatened by insurrections.

The unrest that erupted in Libya nearly two weeks ago has killed at least 1,000 people.

At the weekend, the UN Security Council imposed a travel and assets ban on Gadhafi's regime and ordered a probe into possible crimes against humanity.

London said it had frozen the Gadhafi family assets in Britain, and newspapers reports those amounted to about 20 billion pounds ($32 billion) in liquid assets, mainly in London.

Australia is investigating claims Gadhafi's family has billions in offshore accounts, Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd said on Monday.

Towns fall

Gadhafi dismissed as invalid the UN sanctions and said talks had returned in Libya as the territories held by the opposition were "surrounded."

In his telephone statement to Serbian television, he said: "Libya is completely quiet. There is nothing unusual. There is no unrest."

Of the territory held by the opposition, Gadhafi said: "There is a small group (of opposition) that is surrounded, but everyone is fine."

A video posted on the YouTube website showed one of Gadhafi's sons, Seif al-Islam, assured with an automatic rifle and urging on supporters of his father.

But Gadhafi's crumbling regime now controls only some western areas around the capital and a few long, tense battles in the arid south, reporters and witnesses said.

A reporter arriving in Nalut, a town of 66,000 people, 235 kilometers west of Tripoli, found Gadhafi loyalists had entirely disappeared.

"The city has been liberated," said Ibrahim Sahli, a local lawyer and member of a revolution city committee.

"The towns of Shtiwi, Jadu, Asabaa, Zintan, Yefren, Kekla, Gharyan and Nalut are all free. We have been free for days. In all these towns, Gadhafi's forces have gone and a revolutionary committee put in place."

The crisis threw oil prices up to $113.90 per barrel in Asian trading on Tuesday.

Nearly 100,000 people, most of them Egyptian and Tunisian workers, have already left Libya, while China said it had evacuated nearly 20,000 of its citizens. Reports Evelyn Leopold, Reuters; Peter Times Dyer Jervis-Read AP

Gadhafi's voluptuous nurse has left him

MOSCOW—As Libya's popular uprising closes in on Muammar Gadhafi, he has been abandoned by top military officers, diplomats and even erstwhile military bases, which have flipped to the opposition.

Now he may have lost someone even more important: his Ukrainian nurse.

According to leaked reports on diplomatic cables, Gadhafi has rarely gone without the companionship of his personal nurse. The nurse, known as Galyna Kolotnytska, has had a controversial relationship with the woman, described by the State Department as a "voluptuous blonde."

A Ukrainian newspaper reported on Sunday that the nurse, Galyna Kolotnytska, was on an evacuation flight home over the weekend.

Gadhafi's women

Kolotnytska's relationship to the 68-year-old leader remains unclear, though she was evidently among the inner circle of female figures whom Gadhafi at times flaunted more than most. He also often traveled with a posse of female bodyguards.

The report in the newspaper Segodnya, based on an interview with Kolotnytska's daughter, could not be independently confirmed.

The report raised but did not answer lingering questions about Kolotnytska's role in the leadership structure in Tripoli. It raised speculation in Ukraine on whether the "nurse" had a romantic relationship with Gadhafi, who is married to two other women, one of whom is also a nurse, and what influence she might have had with him.

The American diplomatic memorandums released by the anonymous site WikiLeaks said Kolotnytska was consistently by Gadhafi's side when he visited Syria York in 2005 for a UN General Assembly meeting.

The cables, though, also described Gadhafi as a hypochondriac, leading support to those who argue that her primary duties were medical.

In the interview, Kolotnytska's daughter, Tetiana, played down any special relationship between her mother and Gadhafi. She said her mother went to Libya nine years ago, initially to work in a hospital in Tripoli, and that she was later on Gadhafi's personal nursing staff.

"Other Ukrainian women are also working as his nurses," she said. "What's true of Benin, I've seen reasons, he does not treat these mothers to the Libyans."

New York Times News Service

DFA chief fetches Pinoys from Tripoli

From page A1

the heavens.

Appointed to the Cabinet only last week, Del Rosario, a former Philippine ambassador to Washington, entered Tripoli on Sunday in what many saw as a move too dangerous for the official, to personally oversee the repatriation of Filipinos out of the West African country.

The spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) described Del Rosario's trip to Libya as a "heroic act" that risked his personal safety.

"We're on top of the situation in Libya. We're fully deployed and we have a strategy," Del Rosario said when reached in Sparks, Tennis.

Land, sea, air

By land, sea and air, the Philippine government is evacuating nearly 5,000 Filipino workers from Libya as the uprising against Gadhafi spreads across that country. Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said on Monday.

Some 30,000 Filipinos were in the North African country before the uprising, according to the DFA.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates nearly 180,000 foreign workers may fled Libya over the past week.

Baldoz said there were 3,000 Filipinos in Tripoli who requested to be repatriated, while another 1,500 were waiting evacuation in Benghazi.

As of 11 a.m. yesterday, 341 Filipinos from Libya had arrived in Manila. Some 420 more are expected to arrive by tomorrow.

Overland trip

Baldoz said the government decided to hire the forty Italian Queen from Athens because evacuating Filipinos in Benghazi overland to Egypt was dangerous. The ferry, a Cyprus-flagged vessel, is owned by the Greek Minoan Flying Service Inc.

"It's not safe to travel overland because they have to pass through three cities and rooms that have been 'liberated.' So, there is really no close government there. It's not safe to go overland," Baldoz said.

It takes eight hours to travel from Benghazi to Alexandria, Egypt.

Baldoz said 530 workers who reached Djerba, Tunisia, would be flown to the Philippines on three flights. Tunisia also said more than 60 Filipinos from Libya who have evacuated to Cairo, Egypt.

13,811 OFWs

Baldoz said the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) had identified 13,811 other Filipinos and pinpointed their whereabouts through their employers.

The 13,811 Filipinos include 6,675 workers in Tripoli, 2,431 in Benghazi, 1,137 in Misurata, 148 in Misurata, 109 in Sirte, and 216 in Sebha.

A Philippine labor representative, Migrante International, said there were actually 30,000 Filipinos in Libya when the crisis began, and that the government was using old data.

Migrante president Garry Martinez said the government still needed to do more to help those trapped in oil and gas work sites in Libya's deserts.

Free-exit points

The DOLE has identified five "exit points" for Filipinos wanting to leave Libya: Djerba, Alexandria, Cairo, Athens and Malta.

In the Italian city, Del Rosario

HANDS-ON EXEC Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario (left) is briefed by Tunisian business leader Mourad Ben Ayed on forming on the evacuation program being undertaken by the Philippine government for Filipino workers in Libya.

Evacuation done amid bad omens, says Del Rosario

By Vet Gutierrez

(CNN) Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said a couple of "bad omens" that marred the trip he and Filipino evacuees took from Tripoli caused him to take pause.

The first was when his assigned car was mistakenly filled with only about just before the Philippine convoy was about to leave Tripoli, "he had us those we had to find another car," he said.

Second was when he was told and "fell flat on my face" on the walkway just outside an immigration office for the Libyan border, while the group was undergoing a passport check, "Bruised pride," he said of the incident.

The veteran diplomat announced this "misstep" at the border to the amusement of those reporters that there had been a Filipino casualty during the evacuations.

"Maybe it was that casualty. I lost my dignity's there," he said.

Del Rosario said Philippine officials had set up a crisis command post in Djerba, with five special operations headed by foreign (Undersecretary Fernando Campos.

On top of the Benghazi evacuations is ambassador-to-Zaidaya, while Philippine Ambassador to Libya al-Hassan oversees departures from Tripoli.

Other outposts have been set up the Department of Foreign Affairs on Libya's eastern border with Egypt, and on the western with Tunisia, he said.

Del Rosario said Philippine officials had set up a crisis command post in Djerba, with five special operations headed by foreign (Undersecretary Fernando Campos.

On top of the Benghazi evacuations is ambassador-to-Zaidaya, while Philippine Ambassador to Libya al-Hassan oversees departures from Tripoli.

Other outposts have been set up the Department of Foreign Affairs on Libya's eastern border with Egypt, and on the western with Tunisia, he said.

The Philippine government has set aside at least P100 million for the repatriation of more than 13,000 overseas Filipino workers displaced by the Libyan conflict.

Additional funds are available, "Baldoz said.

Baldoz said employers of Filipinos in Libya had assured the Philippine government they would handle the evacuation at their cost.

She says the DOLE and the DFA are helping those who are not part of the organized evacuation of their employers," she added.

Baldoz said she expected death of a Filipino once Benghazi was due to a work-related accident.

Initial the camera in the Middle East, Baldoz said the DOLE was beefing up its personnel across the region.

She said it was opening a post in Yemen, another country hit by unrest, to help recover some 1,500 Filipinos there.

"We are augmenting our personnel in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain because it looks like the whole region is heating up," Baldoz said. With reports from AP and AFP

'Sons of Aquino, Marcos must forge final settlement'

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SONS of the central figures during the martial law regime must now work for a final and universal settlement for the thousands of people whose human rights were violated during the period.

This was asserted by Akbayan Citizens Action Party Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, who said the call must be first directed to the victims of the Marcos regime, who issued the challenge to President Benigno Aquino III and Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

Marcos is the son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was accused of being behind the torture, arrests, disappearances and deaths of thousands of people during his rule.

Aquino is the son of former President Corazon Aquino and former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., who played key roles in leading Marcos from power.

Both said Marcos, who is now a senator, should take steps to ensure compensation for the victims.

"Today, I call on Senator Marcos to negotiate a final settlement. If he is to be an effective leader in his own country, he must first settle **the claims of his fellow**," Bonbi said during the ceremonies for the turnover of $1,000 checks to some of the victims.

He also called on Mr. Aquino to stop the government from challenging the Hawaii victims' suit.

Bonbi said the President should "negotiate a global settlement with us."

"It's unnecessary and necessary for the Philippine government to appear to be more oppressed and silenced victims," he said.

Bonbi noted that the government recently filed a new motion in Singapore denying the claims of the human rights victims and asking the reserve dismiss their claims.

"Twenty-five years is long enough, Mr. President. It's time to reach a final settlement," he said.

Bonbi later said he would be available to case Mr. Aquino wanted to talk.

Bonbi also recalled the challenges he had faced in pursuing the class suit by the human rights victims.

He said he used a little known, 100-year-old US law to pursue the victims' claims before the US courts.

He came to Manila a month after the 1986 Edsa People Power revolution, armed with the idea that the victims could run after the dictator in the United States, where Marcos had fled.

Bonbi got in touch with lawyer Jose Mari Velez, who was instrumental in helping him pursue the case. Velez worked tirelessly and fearlessly, he recalled.

Bonbi also noted that the suit by the Marcos victims was the first ever filed on behalf of human rights victims anywhere in the United States or the world.

The Marcoses, he said, put up a "dogged defense," and won the first round. Brought on appeal, the case ended in the victims' favor.

But Bonbi also said what made the case hard to pursue was that the Marcoses forced the victims and their counsel to provide a lot of evidence to prove their claims.

He hailed the contributions of Philippine lawyers to the case, even as he lamented that the Philippine government, in reviewing the Marcos assets, interviewed not the victims' case on the ground that it owned the Marcos assets as these were stolen from the government.

He also lamented that the Philippine court refused to recognize the judgment made by the US courts in the case, prompting him to go to the United Nations Committee on Human Rights.

First batch of Marcos' victims receive $1,000 checks

From page A1

Bonbi, who joined their legal battle for compensation from the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Hontiveros, a labor lawyer and human rights defender, has been joining for 24 years.

The program, held at Club Filipino in San Juan City, also honored those who helped achieve the victory. Among those present were lawyers Jose Sapalaj, Rod Domingo Jr., Sedfrey Perez and Constancio de Guzman (right) Chief Lawyer Rosales.

Each of the 7,526 members of a class action lawsuit brought against the Marcoses will get $1,000. The fund distribution was earlier approved by Judge Manuel Real of the US District Court of Hawaii.

The funds came from a $10-million settlement of a case against those who control the Swiss and Colorado properties bought with Marcos money.

The distribution of the rest of the $10 million is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

The payment is the victims partly fulfills a $2 billion judgment against the Marcos estate handed down by a US federal court in 1986.

Hilda Narciso noted that no matter how big or how small the amount to be given to the victims, the money would not bring back missing detainees.

Narciso was a teacher when she was arrested during the martial law years. Her captors interrogated and tortured her, and later sexually abused her.

Victory

But Narciso said the compensation should be that those who had done wrong would have to account for their actions. She considered this development not just a personal victory.

"This is a victory not only for me but for all the Filipino people," she said, as she gave praise to the lawyers who had been with the victims throughout their fight.

Mercedes Paredes, now the executive judge of the Cebu Regional Trial Court, said she does not think the monetary victims suffered was "irreparable." But he welcomed the court decision ordering the monetary award.

"What's important is we get a historic decision that human rights violations were committed during the Marcos regime, and decisions and pronouncements like this," Paredes said.

He added that what was also important was that a repressive regime was made to account for its deeds.

Paredes recalled that he was preparing for the bar exams when he found himself behind bars during martial law. He used to write articles critical of the Marcos regime, when he was with the College Editors Guild of the Philippines. He later worked as a human rights lawyer.

Donation

Paredes intends to donate his check and future compensation from the Marcos estate to the Cebu city jail and to a group that advocates human rights and children's welfare.

Leopardo Ibañez, a lawyer who challenged the Marcos regime, said he was offering his compensation to his wife and children.

He recalled that he was never married when he was arrested and that his wife was then pregnant. During his detention, he was not allowed to sleep or run for 36 hours, an experience that had deprived him and many others of hope.

Movie and stage director Joel Lamangan, one of the 12 recipients of the check, said he was offering the money to those who have died, disappeared and had their youth during martial law, and to those who cannot speak up and do not have the chance to speak up.

"This is a big victory in the fight for human rights, not just for the Philippines but for the whole world," Lamangan said.

Closure of sorts

Lamangan, who as a young activist was jailed in isolation for two years, said the compensation was a "closure of sorts" but still fell short of a desired apology from the Marcos family. The Marcos family has consistently denied any wrongdoing during the patriarch's rule.

"I was only 17, fresh out of high school. I was lured and subjected to all kinds of horrors you can imagine. There were many times I thought I was going to die," he said, showing off a deep scar on his head left by a rifle butt.

Other recipients

Other recipients of the checks were Antonio Lacaba, Beatriz Vera, Edward Gerlock, Fe Mangahas, Silio Gregorio Jr. and Ruben Ibarra. Priscilla Mijares, chair of the Human Rights Commission on Human Rights Chair Rosales received the check on her behalf.

"The amount is small compared to our suffering, but this is a victory for the battle of human rights in the Philippines and it makes the Marcoses accountable for their evil deeds," said Olegario, a retired Air Force colonel.

Olegario's activist son and namesake was arrested by Martial Law agents in December 1985, two months before Marcos was sent into US exile.

Last conversation

An arrangement by training, the younger Olegario had joined other detainees in nonviolent campaign while his father and other siblings migrated to the United States to seek a new life.

"In our last conversation over the telephone, my son said 'Dad, they are swearing on,'" Olegario, 81, recalled. Quitting back tears as he showed a picture of his then 28-year-old son excitedly smiling into the camera.

"He was the favorite among my five children. We never heard from him again. We have not recovered his remains."

Maryknoll priest, poet

Edward Gerlock served as a Maryknoll priest in Baguio, Davao del Norte, and was working with the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) before martial law was declared. The FFF opposed the expansion of banana plantations in the province.

Gerlock was ordered deported by Marcos to the United States for his opposition to the dictatorship.

Antonio Lacaba is the brother of poet Emmanuel Lacaba. Ibarra was a campus poet who became an activist in the late 1960s. He helped draft and disseminate a manifesto titled "Down from the Hill," which encouraged dentists to involve themselves in the sociopolitical movement. He later went underground and was killed in Bulacan, Davao del Norte in March 1976.

Mangahas was active with the faculty union at the University of the East when she found herself sidelined a job shortly after martial law was declared. Not long after, in January 1973, she and husband Roger, who was with a workers' group, were arrested and detained. With an uncle in the army, Mangahas was just interrogated overnight and released, but her husband was detained for 19 months.

In 1974, Ruben Ibarra' son, S.L., was arrested and taken to military custody. He was tortured during interrogations and kept in detention without ever being charged. He disappeared in 1977.

Conjugal dictatorship

Priscilla Mijares, a retired judge, is the widow of prominent anti-Marcos confidant Primitivo Mijares who later turned while the Marcos' and wrote "The Conjugal Dictatorship," a damning exposé of the Marcos regime. Primitivo vanished after the publication of his book in 1976.

Domingo said the release of the $1,000 "is just the start of the good." he said for the early of the claimants and the victims."

With reports from Blair Vicha, Inquirer Research, and AFP

FIRST BATCH Claimants show their $1,000 checks during the ceremonial distribution of compensation to victims of Marcos regime's abuses at Club Filipino. From left, Edward Gerlock, Judge Maricaela Paredes, Joel Lamangan (partial), Hilda Narciso, Leopardo Ibañez, Fe Mangahas, Cecilia Lagman (partial), retired Col. Silio Olegario Sr., Antonio Lacaba and others. Standing at the back are Robert Swift, Rod Domingo jr. and former Sen. Rene Saguisag. LYN RAÑOA

Apl.de.ap ups stake in Ninoy, Cory project

From page A1

cory movement of the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Foundation.

During a press briefing at Filipinas Heritage Library on Monday, Pineda presented his original composition with the working title "People Power," a catchy tune telling the youth that they can be anything they want to be.

"We hope to officially launch the song by May, a time for the next school year," said Rapa Lopa, executive director of the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Foundation.

Pineda will call the song his personal "good luck" mark in time for the 25th anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution through the iTunes library.

All of the proceeds from downloads will go to projects aimed at improving literacy, building more classrooms and inspiring Filipino pride, he said.

"I will definitely sing that song during the [seventh] concerts of the Black Eyed Peas," Pineda said in an interview.

Project Second Home

He added that "it's a must" for the world-renowned Black Eyed Peas—composed of will.i.am, apl.de.ap, Taboo and Fergie—to schedule another concert in the Philippines sometime this year to help him drum up interest and raise donations for the education programs of the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Foundation and its partner organizations.

The proud native of Barangay Sapang Bato in Angeles City in Pampanga has already started his education campaign going with the firm commitment to lend fame and talent to push the ambitious Project Second Home of the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF).

Project Second Home, an initiative under the multisectoral EP-10 Movement to improve the state of the country's education system, aims to construct 10,000 classrooms in ten years.

Priority will go to elementary and high schools in the 40 lowest-performing divisions where the conditional cash transfer (CCT) scheme of the Department of Social Welfare and Development is operational.

According to Cecilia Alcantara, LCF president of the Coca-Cola Foundation, the project is "an alliance of the nation of promoting school children with a heart" whom they can build their dreams and aspirations, a second home where parents can entrust their children for learning and development."

"We thank apl.de.ap for joining us in the education journey," Mr. Montano said.

Pineda has also launched two of his own projects aimed at improving literacy and developing the musical abilities of the youth.

Music library-studio

These will be implemented in partnership with Ayala Foundation, Department of Education, Philippine Development Foundation and the schools in affected in the Philippines before he moved to the United States at 14 years old—Sapang Bato National High School and Holy Angel University (HAU).

HAU, one of the biggest universities in the Philippines, will be home to the apl.de.ap Music Library and Studio.

The idea behind the project is to unleash the musical and technology talents of disadvantaged Filipino youth through the use of the studio, which will be furnished with musical instruments, interactive software programs and other educational materials designed to make learning more dynamic and engaging for students.

The library and studio will be accessible for free to the public.

Pineda's support for Sapang Bato will be through the Filipinas Heritage Library's My Library Program, through which he will provide the funds to build the school library, computer room and music room in order to help raise the academic achievement levels of students and address the high dropout rate in the school.

Other components of the project include teacher training workshops, a mentoring program and an endowment fund for the apl.de.ap Scholarship Program to enable students to finish college.

Facilitating the project is PhilDev—formerly Ayala Foundation—which focuses on strategic philanthropy in areas of science, technology and education and bridges US-based organizations and individuals with philanthropic programs in the Philippines.

Pineda will return to his hometown on Wednesday to launch the two projects, which are expected to be completed by February 2012.

Model program

According to Ayala Foundation president Virginia Santibanez, the My Library Program in Sapang Bato will be the model for similar projects across the country, considering that there are only about 1,000 libraries serving 16 million Filipinos.

"We are very excited to partner with apl.de.ap for this initiative," Santibanez said in a statement.

"It just shows how meaningful change can happen when there is synergy among groups and individuals wishing to uplift the state of education for our youth. We hope that apl will inspire other people to also give back to the country," she added.

Pineda told the heavens that he was excited to see these projects through, considering all the success that he has achieved with help from other people.

He is particularly optimistic about the music studio, saying he believes that Filipinos have so much talent that just needs the opportunity to be known and be recognized.

"Who knows? Maybe someday we will have another Black Eyed Peas," Pineda said.

BLACK EYED PEAS ENDORSER Allan Pineda Lindo Jr (aka apl.de.ap), fourth from left, of the Black Eyed Peas poses with representatives of partner organizations at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati City on Monday. They are, from left, Guillermo Luz of Ayala Foundation, Rafael Lopa of the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Foundation, Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Bobby Aquino Cruz, Victoria Garchitorena Argoso of Ayala Foundation and Philippine Development Foundation, Cecilia Alcantara of the League of Corporate Foundations, and his manager Rudy Vergara. LEA TERUEL/PHOTO

"We're sure

getting a Toyota is one of the best decisions we'll ever make."

Toyota's 4 Sure Advantages have consistently made us the most preferred car brand* in the country.

- **Quality, Durability & Reliability**
- **Great Value**
- **Worry-Free Maintenance**
- **Pioneering Technologies**

At Toyota, we are committed to ensuring the highest standards of quality and safety. This is so you and your family can enjoy durability, reliability and the best Toyota value years and years from now. Value that is about putting you first, while continuously giving back to society. We do all these because we believe you deserve nothing less.

TOYOTA SURE ADVANTAGE

Ask your Toyota dealer about it.

TOYOTA
driving forward

VIOS

INQUIRER

OPINION

Unfinished business

EDITORIAL

THE FIRST EDSA has often been called the "Unfinished Revolution" because while it achieved its immediate objectives, which were to oust the dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos and restore democracy, it has not achieved its long-term aims, which were principally to bring about good governance and stamp out corruption.

The late President Corazon Aquino was not able to achieve the good governance goal because, as she herself admitted, she was "not a housewife" who had no previous experience in government. She had some good Cabinet members, but in the new government there was some scrambling, and at one point she had to dismiss some Cabinet members, some belonging to one faction and the others to another, just to relieve the dissension in her administration. She was also kept busy fending off several coup attempts.

Cory Aquino was herself free of any taint of corruption, but some of her relatives, "Kamaganak, Inc.," reportedly took advantage of their closeness to her to enrich themselves. Some of the government bodies which she created, like the Presidential Commission on Good Government, were well-intentioned, but soon they were used by some commissioners as productive milking cows.

There was some good governance during the term of Mr. Aquino's successor, Fidel V. Ramos, and the country was able to achieve a respectable rate of economic growth. But this was interrupted by the economic meltdown in Asia in 1997. The Ramos administration was also marked by some anomalous deals like the Amari-PEA transaction and the Centennial Exposition project.

Ramos' successor, a former actor, was elected by a big majority and enjoyed the support of the masses. But he soon let them down, holding midnight-to-dawn Cabinet meetings at which huge quantities of expensive alcohol were consumed, high stakes gambling was played and resorts were paid for in cash[1] hundreds of thousands of pesos. The president would then sleep the hangover off until late in the morning. Was this any way to conduct a supposedly reformist government?

The massive corruption has been documented in investigative reports published in newspapers, and some concrete (pun intended) proofs of this were the mansions/ mansions, some of which were called the Imasoon Mansions because expensive wheat was imported for this the Pinoy meant to resonate its ambiance. The other goods—ballistic-proof bank accounts, the use of government power to rig lucrative deals in the stock market, etc.—were all discovered all with evidence in the impeachment case which ended after the majority in the impeachment court prevented the opening of the infamous "second envelope." Estrada was ousted in the so-called Edsa II.

Estrada's vice president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, took over as the constitutional successor and in the beginning, with her unshakable ways, gave promise of some good governance. But soon, the ugly face of corruption began to show itself in various transactions—among them, the $14-million bribe in the Impsa deal, the P1-billion Macapagal Highway, the P768-million fertilizer scam and the aborted $329-million MRV-ZTE deal.

The corruption did not involve purely financial projects. There is the infamous "Hello, Garci" case where Ms. Arroyo allegedly called Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, purportedly to ask him to add one million votes so that she would have a comfortable lead over presidential rival Fernando Poe Jr. in the 2004 presidential election. This was a president who, in Edsa II, was given an implicit directive by the people to cleanse government of corruption. But did she, or was she even complicit in the big anomalous transactions?

With the second Aquino presidency be able to achieve, even on a modest scale, the two long-term objectives of Edsa I? The answer will depend on a large measure not only on the Aquino administration but the people. If Edsa I has still not remained an unfinished revolution it is because there has been no follow-through. After the initial objectives were attained, people thought that good governance and the eradication of graft and corruption would occur. But the people still have to participate actively in government if these long-term objectives are to be attained. If eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, active participation in government and a constant watch against corruption is the price of the completion of the Unfinished Revolution.

Publisher Isaac Tarriela
Editor in Chief/CEO Raniel Pascual
Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Armando S. Doronila
Associate Editor for Broadcasting Richard A. Gonzales
Opinion Editor Juan F. Mercado
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez Jr. • Chief Page One Operations Ana R. Pedro
Chief News Page Desk Marie G. Alcantara
National Editor Philostrato R. Gutierrez Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jaime S. Salvador Jr.
Editorial Consultant Amando Doronila
Chief Photographer Lito G. Corcino
Art & Design Director Lisbeth G. Villarino

Board Chairman Hermie B. Pineda
President Alexander Pio G. Poblete Jr.
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Renato R. Ramos
Vice President for Advertising Ricky R. Ocampo
Vice President for Info Technology Peter Quiz Lim
Vice President for Finance Jose Ma. Vea Arnaiz
AVP for Circulation Manuel Antonio S. Cuenco IV
Corporate Affairs Manager Consuelo R. Galvante

All rights reserved. Copyright protected by law. No part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

'Geography of grief and cruelty'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

DO NO[t] glimpse the underground "Radyo Bandido" of People Power take cyberspace forms in the "Arab Revolutions of 2011"?

In Edsa I, it was radio.[2] Fr. James Reuter sr. opted to set fourteen 25-ft People Power antennipoles across the seven-mile Epifanio de los Santos Avenue. "Information is democracy's oxygen," he declared in his homily during Radyo Bandido broadcasts over the seven-mile stretch. Reuter, one of the "fifth column priests" who blew up the Catholic mass media's silence.

Information is democracy's oxygen." So declared Fr. James Reuter during Radyo Bandido broadcasts over the seven-mile stretch. Reuter, one of the "fifth column priests" who blew up the Catholic mass media's silence.

Today, protesters in Libya, Iran, Yemen, Bahrain in Algeria and Morocco would face book, Twitter and e-mail. Those 21st century tools emerged from Edsa I's radio and Edsa II's cellphones and texts.

Research on consuming data, by Stanford University, Sand Corporation and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, led to breakthroughs in "passive networking." By mid-1980s, the last emerged. Followed in the next decade by new generation tools: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.

The explosive growth of easy access communications, on Internet, had a deep impact on Arab societies. Especially on youth. Arab rulers have no two centuries' experiences, culled from an interview Channel 4 had by:

Libya—fly 41 years of one man rule. Moammar Gheddafi, clamped total control on media, seven Supreme Widows Brothers. But the Internet vitalized dissidents. Citizens' groups are uploaded information and pictures of Libyans fighting back as Ghaddafi staged near-suicide campaign.

"My name is Ibrahim," messaged Abd. Fattah el Tarbuni, "born in Benina, related to Egypt, married to women, fought in Libya and [I] grew up in the Arab world." Umar Amer added: "Thirty are to meet Obama whatever." Another, Mohamed Nabbous, is operating Radio One." He telephoned people in Libya from London and posts most information on Twitter.

Radyo Bandido declared "Shuttle Magazine" for his theme. Libyan bloggers and Twitter exchanged info [3]...the day-to-day events are gleaned from 72 protesters. The first issue of an uncensored newspaper "Libya" appeared. And the opposition formed two more radio stations against Ghaddafi. (Pinpoint where your dictator is [Source] 4, on Feb. 24, and began broadcasting for People Power.)

Ghaddafi mapped his response[4], as did Egypt's Mubarak and Tunisia's Ben Ali. But used to unbend to every servant. They signaled plan[5] rains of Libyan helicopter gun-ships, ordered strike to dislocate media, delivered instead.

Libyans ordered Col. Hassan Ibrahim to lead the Utah Strike Force, known as Rangers Praise, to "neutralize" helicopters in rebel held Camp Coura. Ibrahi and his squadron chose to land at Camp Coura and defect. This was duly reported by "Radyo Bandido."

Bahrain rulers in Egypt, Bahrain are "few with mounting devices to transmit images directly from the process." Internet and Web-

lovers enabled youth to film live while shaking shoes at rulers. Yemen hashtag #Feb14—the first "elaborate day protests...to commemorate the identity of Bahrain's alternative media.

The regime blocked websites where Bahrainis published updates for debate and information. Clips of police storming the protest camp, in central Manama, appeared on YouTube.

Media People Power erupted as Filipino millionaires quarantined, in safe haven, whether they'd join or not. They didn't—and ended up as "Imasoy's orphans." They haven't lived that down.

Ghaddafi blamed al-Qaida for the events. Without comment, the media are, in fact, not given to knocked teams wearing jihads. They're not to unaffected internet savvy and often disorganized people, which their elders, their most reliable and broader human friendship.

Like Filipinos, they'll find that disposing dictators is only some to the far more complex task of a more democratic society. The Arab world roots from massive defects in education, women rights and freedom. UNDP's Arab Human Development Report 2009, documents these ills. Results, noted Georgetown [illegible], 2/22/10:

"Per capita expenditure on education in Arab countries dropped from 26 percent of that in industrialized countries to 1980 to 13 percent in the mid-1990s. More than 60 million Arabs are illiterate. And Yemen could be the first country in the world to run out of water in 10 years.

"This Arab Revolutionists of 2011 had a motivation: the paradigm of grief and cruelty" writes Fouad Ajami of Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in the New York Times. Arabs acquiesced to despair, their resistance sapped by years—and centuries of tyranny, poverty and ignorance.

"There is no matter that marks with precision when the total people grow weary of decrees ... This rebellion was an inevitable response to the stagnation of Arab economies and a desire to be dominated of guilt for having given in to despair for so long."

Power of memory

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiroz

THE COMMENTATORS have already universally registered their protests against Bongbong Marcos' effort to rewrite history. Specifically, his declaration that if his country hadn't been ruled for better 21 years ago, we'd be another Singapore by now.

Well, it's a mind-boggling piece of historical revisionism and deserves all the brickbats—and wet jokes—it got. Someone should collect how that the reason Bongbong said this was that he wanted to get a head start in becoming president in time to run for governor in 2016. He's a good sub-alpha is apparently inspired by, or envious about, Comelec Jejomar's not becoming president. In a snappy formula, unbothered by his wrong shooting on last elections, and emotionally bent by his 2010 defeat, he said: "Kung hindi kayo ako ang presidente ngayon, hindi kayo ako ang presidente ngayon."

It does add whole new dimensions to Bongbong's famous ignorance about the donor value she may want history are randomized to repeat it. Free to respond to stuff as it use, as diarists it outright, along with Bongbong's unfortunate mixup the heroic vision of material has it sounds horrendously deluded. Except he's serious, though.

Due is that 21 years after Edsa, Bongbong Marcos is a senator, marries Imelda to the top spokesmates of the second quarter of those terms, and three Marcos is the governor of the one Ilocos.

The last one are not altogether surprising. Every there is a land history forgot, or it is a land that has forgotten history, or it is a land surrounded by history—three ways of saying the same thing. At least since 1965 when Marcos won his first term, it is a land where the Marcos years remain alive, or where it is preserved in the same way as his body is in a land that continues to have textbooks for schoolchildren that say Marcos was the greatest president of all time. Even if he is demigod, this-country has ever produced. You can almost expect a Marcos to routinely win there as representative or governor.

Ain Bongbong is another matter entirely. He is a man without the memory of history, in the fun another case of the kind of Christian charity we like to practice to another area of the capacity for national amnesia we are natural to his wife?

The is that 21 years are a long time for other countries and an eternity for some. If you were born during Edsa, you would be 21 years old today. If you were born during Edsa, you would be 30 years old by the time we vote for the next president. If you were born during Edsa, by the time you vote in 2016 you will have nothing about Bachelor law other than what you've read in books or heard from the "old folks."

The difference between Edsa and today is the difference during my time between the "Democracy" and Pinoy-Kano. That is not just a difference in time, that is a difference in worlds. I imagine the way "Standing up Filipino in Middle" and "Bagkatan" sound to the 25-year-olds today is the way Glenn Miller's "Moonlight Serenade" sounded to me in 1979, and I wasn't even 20 then. Whatever the musician, real or imagined, called about the Plan, it seemed like they were talking about something that happened during the turn of the century. I couldn't understand why they hated the Japanese with a passion.

In this country in particular, which has the insidious power of the subtle, 21 years can be forever. Enough to make the law of the country think like those those there? Probably not, but at least enough to make today's 25-year-olds and the ones that will come after them forget a great many lessons of martial law the way we forget those of the Japanese occupation.

Time is the [illegible] thing for "nihilo-

Reflections from Tawi-Tawi

THE SIDNEY the past few days in dynamic Tawi-Tawi, where life tends to be decisive, according to the statistics: Average life expectancy in Tawi-Tawi, we are told, is 53.5 years, more than 20 years less than in La Union, where on average people supposedly live around 70 years. It is necessary to what many might think, life is short in Tawi-Tawi but not much because people are likely to be killed in shooting or violence-related accidents earlier. There is none of that in Tawi-Tawi. The place is actually generally peaceful by the popular standards of Mindanao, probably smaller than, and like other peaceful places in Mindanao, which is most of it—Tawi-Tawi is unfairly perceived to be a dangerous place to visit. Indeed, when I mentioned my upcoming trip to a friend, his first question was whether I had ample security. I had to disabuse him of the impression that such was ever needed.

If personal security is not an issue in Tawi-Tawi—something our hosts immediately affirmed and which I personally observed—food security is another story. Tawi-Tawi has the province with the top of the list of the country's poorest provinces apart the lowest life expectancy following the poor state of public health, it also has among the most education indicators and lowest average family incomes. The basis for the latter is the dwindling of coconut-tree dependence that most people are among the worst off in the country. Prices (including those of food) are much lower than elsewhere in the country, thanks to cheap transportation costs from Malaysia and Indonesia, but people have little money to buy the cheap supplies of seafood. It's easy to see, then, that the low gross domestic product does not necessarily translate to low gross domestic happiness.

Basil Rose, our friendly guide from the Tawi-Tawi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI), told me that the local economy has been turned around, courtesy, Edwards and trade (especially with nearby Malaysia). Production of seaweed, a product the place is largely known for, has been declining due to the imbalance of natural forces.

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

Rising and energetic Bongao Mayor Jaipe Que receives whom all spills from large areas going wrong, about 20 of which pass through their sea on daily. There's also pollution of the coastal waters caused by run-off from the swelling squatter, massive laundry destruction of the mangroves that had traditionally been a natural fence for the runoff. The town rubbish dump has been the "sore" disease that afflicts the unsewered, unsightly seashore as like spots on the plains.

But beyond ecological troubles, there stubborn, a TCCI officer who also heads the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the province, laments the way small seaweed farmers face low prices from traders who had extended them credit beforehand—a problem that is prevalent in land-based agriculture all over the country. This reveals the limits for vertical farmers to produce more, or even continue doing so, she asserts. Just like rice, corn, cassava and other farmers, seaweed growers desire need access to more formal credit at reasonable cost. As I have written before, I'm convinced that once we simultaneously overcome our age-old lukewarm with overall, savings by small producers (including SMEs in low-income areas), solutions to many other issues will need poverty would fall into place.

The poor state of public health in Tawi-Tawi contributes to the high infant mortality rate. Its citizens, due to apparently rooted in lack of use very basic need—tissue, parasite worm. The place has received a number of foreign-assisted projects to improve water supply, but the problem persists. The reality is that groundwater resources appear inadequate, because there is little of watershed resources to speak of in the islands. Until the day desalination technology becomes economic, more systematic capture of rainwater (of which there is ample supply year-round) is necessary to go for small island areas like Tawi-Tawi. I noted that households already have rudimentary systems to catch roof rainwater, but are prone to contamination with bird and other harmful impurities.

The other issue noted Tawi-Tawi lacks is energy, just as many areas in poverty. If this power situation has barely been had in Mindanao, it is even more so in Tawi-Tawi. It was in fact prominently in the news just a week before my trip that the place was in darkness because power plants in several areas had run out of fuel and could not afford to the oil companies. I was made sure to pack a flashlight for my trip, but happily found that 18-hour power was back, so time for the show losing. But this rosy unreliability of power has detrimental effects on business, as it does on schooling the industry or business. But the area holds much promise in these, with its pristine white beaches and crystal-clear waters. Municipal administrator Mary Ann Abdulsalmiga told us of a Malaysian investor who brought a cruise ship a year to a resort on one of Tawi-Tawi's islands, but he ceased upon seeing the lack of power and fresh water. For the same reason, no one has put up a seaweed processing facility there, even if it makes economic sense to process raw seaweed close to the production site rather than in Cebu or Zamboanga, as is the way in Cebu or Zamboanga for the purpose.

But the Administrator had an even greater concern: she and Mayor Que noted that they receive hardly any support from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) government, whether in resources or in terms of policies. Amid the spate of recent problems arising out of the ARMM, this is an issue that could very well be the most difficult one to fix.

E-mail: cielito.habito@gmail.com

The 'unhappy wife' speaks

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

"YOU'RE LIKE a wife who feels constantly insecure; does her husband's love, and keeps nagging him to declare how much he loves her," lobbied Fredie Bernardo of the end of a dialogue between Catholic bishops and representatives of Catholic-affiliated organizations.

The bishops' officials present at the dialogue were Chito Salvador, Secretary Deby Soliman, established spokesperson Jobelle Ledesma and Philippine Commission on Women Chair Remedios Rikken.

The dialogue was arranged in response to several calls for Pilipinas to engage in dialogue with women's groups and other sectors of civil society, which are supportive of the pending Reproductive Health/Responsible Parenthood Bills in the House and Senate. This in the wake of a series of disruptive incidents in which representatives of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines which, as the CBCP representatives said, "just dropped" a series of Pilipinas' position papers on the RH bills, without any discussion involved or a nudge to the latter public literature.

Critics identify the Mahadlang CBCP dialogue took place only a day after the Philippine bishops announced their "total opposition" to the bill and after Senator Pimentel with Malacañang that the "quick" passage of the RH Bill the people the House (also about to begin floor debates) and Senate (on the consolidated bill) is being pre-empted by a series of conflicting groups' views are more discordant voices and methods.

But in the view of Bro. de Louis of The Social Action Center, Bishop Ledesma, who were there in the dialogue, "the relationship between poverty and population." "We're already in sync with you," added Ledesma.

There were many questions among the CBCP persons when they heard Ledesma mention that Malacañang was backing out of submitting a "responsible parenthood bill" which allegedly would have been among the bills certified as urgent, paving the way for its speedy passage.

Rina clarified that he had read a draft of the so-called "consensus bill" prepared largely by business organizations and that he told Pilipinas that the bill was "not bad." Pilipinas was ready to be found in the consolidated bill to be debated by the Cabinet.

My take on this part of the discussion was that, since the original Pilipinas bills were gathering space in the House and the Senate, Malacañang felt there was no longer any need to certify a Malacañang-originated bill.

* * *

SOME CBCP representatives, though, felt the President's "impatience," to borrow an expression of theirs, would still be helpful to convince those legislators still straddling both sides of the fence to vote in favor of the RH Bill.

The appearance of a Pimentez "on-Bishop" between his support for reproductive health and withdrawing that support resulted in killing the chance of my bishops who they hold Malacañang in the palm of their hands, some of the CBCP representatives said. But to this Bishop Soliman countered that this was an impression created largely by media and non-Malacañang sources and that "we're not the ones" heard, "voters other than the Church," were in reflection of the views of workers, administrators and of other kinds.

Bro. Eric Alejo del Rosal, executive director of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development, took the opportunity to assure the group that the Senate committee on votes had the numbers and would not succumb to opposition and that the bill would soon be debated on the floor for the period of interpellations and amendments. In the same time, he urged the bishops to "not be afraid to have a very clear talk about the issue of reproductive health, especially since the country has only four years to attain what is known mainstreaming as MDGs 4, 5, 6, if it doesn't want to be embarrassed before the world."

* * *

HEARD the "unpleased wife" theme the dialogue encountered in the "husband's" continuing love?

Well, in the first place, there shouldn't be a problem with the "husband" if he's not divorced them!" And in the second place, if, as the President has declared, then "you humanizing the people's right to choose," then he should be aware that the "wife" has the right to choose what to do with her own body and her own reproductive lives. Unless, that, absurd and undemocratic—and you wouldn't have an "unhappy" wife clamoring for your attention.

Fact-checking people power

Newsstand

John Nery

AT FIRST I did not know what to make of it. Teodoro Locsin Jr.'s opening essay on the Egyptian revolution for the new TV5 website, mediamosa.com, manages the unlikely feat of praising people power while burying the spirit of Edsa. Having subdued counter-adept power and disparaged "romancing for a long while, I keep looking for hints in the essay that locate the date using "21-feb-11, 7:21PM," that he was merely joking. I've got to say, however, that "People Power in International" seems to have been written in earnest.

In his essay, one of the country's few active statesmen, the one expert of Edsa 1986, and spectator the courage of the unarmed civilians who stopped the tanks and ushered history's rule. He begin by declaring that "People Power" is the "Filipino people invented People Power," and then to refine it back, "theoretically first-3rd tier."

The question whether Filipinos invented people power remains alongside mine, I confess it is hard to resist the Filipino reader's attention to the civil rights movement in the United States or the "revolution of the carnations" in Portugal.

But Locsin diminishes the meaning of Edsa by holding that Mubarak was ready to resign before the collapse. "Marcos did not so much fail as he was already packing up the pieces of his memorabilia," several rule with a small bench and dozen-odd armed to the top of mouth," he claimed. Locsin, his debilitating illness, his wife's cautious observations, and finally to what we expect was his abysmal boredom with the 13-year Marcos ship he had rescued." It only Marcos were a character in a Gabriel Marquez novella. But by all accounts, Juan Ponce Enrile was visibly afraid on the night of Feb. 22...he knew he and his boys were massively outnumbered and badly outgunned." And by all accounts, Marcos refused to leave until the last possible moment, even asking both Enrile and the Americans about the possibility of staying past the end of his term in 1987.

In fact, and contrary to the Locsin scholarship we remember of Edsa 1986, in the first days to days of the uprising hardly anyone expect soldiers to give up.

Not because they are more devoted to Marcos than Locsin would have us believe, but because they were not sure what would happen to them if they did. Remember that Enrile and Ramos had been plotting a coup since December 1985, and that they had been found out by Marcos. Remember that Enrile and Ramos had to hole up in Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame, respectively, because they were afraid of being arrested by Marcos' men. Remember that Enrile and Ramos had to call on the people to protect them from Marcos' men. Remember that Enrile and Ramos had to call on the people to protect them from Marcos' men.

LETTERS

Democracy must also be about democratizing wealth

I HAVE been asked several times what we should do, as a nation and as a people, to preserve the legacy of the February 1986 Edsa Revolution.

My answer is, protect democracy and defend it indigenous.

Preserving democracy requires vigilance. It also requires courage—not just the physical kind but also the moral kind. It requires, on the part of public officials in particular, refusal to be bought, subject to compromise, refusal to collaborate with those who show tendencies toward despotism. The previous regime succeeded not just because it was ruthless, it succeeded because many officials were willing to support with personal administration and gain.

Defending the full potential of democracy requires alleviating poverty, if not eradicating it. I will not take up existing again and again. Democracy is, nothing if it is not also democratizing wealth. Democracy cannot thrive in societies where population groups in abject poverty.

Every brilliant idea from economists, of whatever political color, and all our minds and all our practices, must be put together in a strategy or program to address poverty. Right now I could think of five approaches:

• An efficient bureaucracy that works like a well-oiled machine, teeming with competent and caring front line workers.

• Efficient systemic and policies to enable to transform the business and investment ecosystem, and to attract more investment.

• The efficient utilization of national and local budgets to address the key concerns of the country—education, health, livelihood, disaster management, good basic governance and security.

• Efficient ownership of our natural resources so that truly benefit our people while ensuring the sustainability of the environment.

• Efficient implementation of our security objectives, with discipline and the perfect balance between professionalism, ideological purity and humanism to the full, and focused entirely on preserving our citizens.

In other words, you have to do just about everything. Anyone wishing to take on the daunting responsibility of leading this country must consider everything.

My experience in Malaki has taught me much. Have a political will, enable the people's participation, and be transparent about it, and if you must add, collect taxes well but don't pay all the money in the bank, spread it to social services. Roughly, that brought the country's postwar financial disaster from the brink of bankruptcy to surplus. Now debt is liquidated from a place that was to the people.

As far as alleviating poverty goes, one must have a will of iron but not a brain of steam. As far as promoting democratic gains, Malaki has been a conquer of freedom and a bastion of peace all these years.

As far as unleashing the full potential of democracy goes, Malaki is the champion of pro-poor projects, programs and institutions. We have seen the fruits of People Power in Malaki through a government that serves its people well. There is no reason why it cannot be done at the national level.

—FEX PRESIDENT GLORIA CARLOS

25 years after Edsa, nation is in worse situation

ON THE 25th Edsa anniversary, we celebrate the people's victory against the Marcos dictatorship, and recall by the overwhelming spirit it is the people's struggle for freedom.

After 25 years, there is still no fundamental social change. Terror and chronic poverty continue to haunt us. Our situation is worse than before: millions are powerless, landless and jobless.

Corruption is more deeply embedded than ever, as proved by Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's plunder and the recent AFP scandals. Illicit income continues to victimize workers and peasants, as in the Hacienda Luisita, Rio Grande, Lucena and Hagonoy labor atrocities, and in human rights violations and extrajudicial killings.

In the 1986 snap elections and all post-Edsa 1 national elections, massive fraud was used to secure the ruling class' hold on power. Just midnight, the pre-programmed 2010 elections betrayed the soul of the "mother" of democracy.

Large-scale mining, logging and agribusiness companies in Mindanao and throughout the country continue to plunder our natural resources, destroying our environment and causing disastrous calamities.

In truth, the real beneficiaries of Edsa 1 are the anti-Marcos factions of the ruling class: the Aquinos, the Cojuangcos, the Lopezes, Jose Pierre Ferdie Fidel Ramos, the "redoubtable" generals and finance cronies like Lance Tan.

The masses regain exploited Edsa 1 and called us differently from Marcos—servile or the terrorists of big landlords ruling from provincial satrapies, and in despotic rule and set.

US imperialism took advantage of both Edsa 1 and 2 to destroy its rivalry behind the ruling elite to unchain the "total labor" of the people and ensure that foreign monopoly interests are protected.

Edsa was both Edsa 1 or 2 was exactly an economic choice to keep themselves in power, an Edsa that spiraling cannot hold the status quo to relentlessly through revolutionary change.

There is, however, a true revolution that is presently taking place: the people's nationalist and democratic revolution that is advancing from the countryside to encircle the towns and cities, aiming to dismantle feudal, bourgeois and imperialist economic monopoly and political control.

This revolution aspires for genuine land reform, nationalist industrialization, true democracy and sovereignty, and is advanced by the alliance of workers and peasants shoulder to shoulder with progressive and patriotic forces, under the leadership of the working class party.

The CPP-Makabayan urges the Filipino people to denounce the sham democracy during this 25th anniversary of the Edsa uprising. We must unite to take the road of genuine revolutionary change through the national-democratic revolution with a socialist perspective, and pave the way for the establishment of an armistice.

We call on the people to consider the revolutionary spirit of the Edsa uprising and join us with the national-democratic revolution.

—JOSE MARIA SISON
spokesperson, National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) Makabayan
edilpmakabayan@yahoo.com

If you have any compliments, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by The Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to No. 897-4793, 897-8799, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

ATTENTION: CLASSIFIED ADVERTISERS
INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

'The King's Speech' is best picture

From page A1

her just positive," Firth said.

The British Australian Hooper profusely thanked his mother, Meredith. He said she went to see a play starring in 2007 about a speech therapist who helped the future King George VI of England overcome a crippling stammer.

When she got home, Hooper said, Meredith phoned to say, "I think I may have found your next project." He said the moral of the story was, "Listen to your mothers."

'Insane'

Among those thrown how was Annette Bening for "The Kids Are All Right." With this, Bening has lost all four times she's been nominated.

"Thank you so much. This is insane, and I really, sincerely wish that the prize tonight was to get to work with my fellow nominees," Portman said.

Host Anne Hathaway drew her dropping the F-word during her speech. "I apologize to any one that they [offended]," she said backstage.

Bale himself joked that he was keeping his language clean. "I'm not going to drop the F-bomb like she did," he said. "I've done that plenty of times before."

But the program was relevant elsewhere in the world with Lee's awards announced. Viewers who watched the show on state television, as usual, weren't available. The state-run Arts Council in Pyongyang, North Korea, broadcast the Oscars' lead and closing.

The best picture win for "The King's Speech" was the first for its distributor, the Weinstein Co., founded by savvy awards campaigner Harvey Weinstein and his brother Bob after they left Miramax, their old outfit, to Miramax, Weinstein oversaw best picture wins for "Chicago," "Shakespeare in Love" and "The English Patient."

Momentum

"The King's Speech" had been the late apparent for Hollywood's highest honor since last January, when it seized the awards momentum with a leading 12 Oscar nominations and a sweep of top prizes from influential actors, directors and producers guilds.

Before that, the film took the Toronto "The Social Network" had hosted like the front-runner, dominating awards from key critics' groups and a variety of best drama at the Golden Globes.

At of the moment tide such as "The Social Network" would have fit the Oscars' recent pattern, with contemporary stories such as "The Hurt Locker," "Slumdog Millionaire" and "Crash" winning best picture.

But Dean varies revealed its tastes, quirks and tradition this time, sparking that marked only past best picture winners as "The Last Emperor," "Ben-Hur" the trilogy and ponderfully moving to-to adult roles, including 2000's "Closer," which brought her first Oscar nomination.

She is the only female from acting winner; the only other acting nominee from is Israel was Natalie Portman for "Hidden on the Boat."

Lee's win capped an unusual career surge in middle age for the 50-year-old actress, who had modest success on TV's "Friends." Lee was the late Jim Henson's last daughter to live, seven statistics in her late 40s.

In disbelief when she took the stage, Lee said, "Pinch me." Her husband legend Erik Douglas, who presented her award, obliged with a little pinch on her arm.

Professional envy

Bale earned the same prize for Russell, called, for his Heath Ledger, received positive acclaim from praise ago for "The Dark Knight."

At the time, Bale had fatally recalled a bit of professional envy as he watched Ledger perform on set like a celebrated as the dialect. And when, while he had to remain clenched up at the mic, rightly "Inception" Nolan.

"The Fighter" gave Bale his trade to unleash some demons as Dicky Eklund, a boxer whose excuse unresolved until crime and drug abuse. Bale delivers a classy performance full of rise and fall, bobbing and weaving around the actress's star and producer, Mark Wahlberg, who plays Eklund's avoid brother, Jamie Kirky Ward.

The screwplay was realized a Mickey dream for "King's Speech" writer Seidler, a boyhood stammer born in London in 1937, a year after George took the throne. Seidler, who overcame his speech defect at age 14, had been wowed to one day write about the stalemate whose fortitude set an example for him in childhood.

Jenifer Hudson Queen Elsa- both 8, daughter of King George, "for not pitching me to the Tower of London for using the Mellon Lee Friend." The Elks Institute two scenes where the king spoon probably in anger to help him out his syllables.

Seidler began researching the film some years ago but the project was put on hold after the Queen Mother, the former Queen Elizabeth, asked him not to make the movie in her lifetime, because she feared it would bring back painful memories. (The Queen Mother, daughter Queen Elizabeth II is the current monarch, died in 2002 at age 101.)

Aaron Sorkin

The Oscar for adapted screenplay went to Aaron Sorkin for "The Social Network." A co-founder of the hit-of Facebook, based on Ben Mezrich's book "The Accidental Billionaires."

Two items of industrial tech, "Toy Boy" and "Wing," ended their intertwined lives in Denmark and Africa, took first for-sign-language film. Flour won the best animated feature Oscar, for "Toy Story 3," marketed for the Unitech, accepting the trophy.

Randy Newman, a writing for the song "We Belong Together," from "Toy Story 3," nominated for had been nominated 20 times and never just twice.

Unlike their right-lipped up-

BEST ACTRESS Natalie Portman accepts her Oscar for best actress for her role in "Black Swan." AP PHOTO

BIG WINNERS Lisa Cunning, Emile Sherman and Gareth Unwin accept the Oscar for best motion picture for "The King's Speech." AP

Complete list of winners:

- Best Picture: "The King's Speech"
- Actor: Colin Firth, "The King's Speech"
- Actress: Natalie Portman, "Black Swan"
- Supporting Actor: Christian Bale, "The Fighter"
- Supporting Actress: Melissa Leo, "The Fighter"
- Directing: Tom Hooper, "The King's Speech"
- Foreign Language Film: "In a Better World," Denmark
- Adapted Screenplay: Aaron Sorkin, "The Social Network"
- Original Screenplay: David Seidler, "The King's Speech"
- Animated Feature Film: "Toy Story 3"
- Art Direction: "Alice in Wonderland"
- Cinematography: "Inception"
- Sound Mixing: "Inception"
- Sound Editing: "Inception"
- Original Score: "The Social Network" - Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross
- Original Song: "We Belong Together" from "Toy Story 3," Randy Newman
- Costume Design: "Alice in Wonderland"
- Documentary Feature: "Inside Job"
- Documentary (short subject): "Strangers No More"
- Film Editing: "The Social Network"
- Makeup: "The Wolfman"
- Animated Short Film: "The Lost Thing"
- Live Action Short Film: "God of Love"
- Visual Effects: "Inception"

Hathaway...was relatively restrained and—at least.

Hathaway used her hosting duties to show off her singing, staging a Broadway-style number and even cracking an ad-lib joke after Kirk Douglas's appearance. ("It's the young and hip Oscars!").

France, on the other hand, at times appeared ill at ease and awkward on some of the more awkward moments of the night, appearing to fall drag as Marilyn Monroe in "Some Like It Hot."

In a high-risk move, the academy brought in Billy Crystal for a monologue half way through the show. The audience jumped to its feet, as Crystal, a beloved past host, brought a whiff of the seemingly impromptu reader-the spirit that marked successful past shows.

But the move was F** Crystal cracked, before launching into some schtick that seemed to lag with some video of Bob Hope, an even more revered host from the past. Reports from AP, AP Reuters, and New York Times News Service

Short film by Fil-Ams wins Oscar

From page A1

here technology days.

Marlaena went to the New York University (NYU) with Bennett, a Baptist native, and Dyanngan, who was born in Los Angeles to immigrant parents. Yesterday, a former "Sat Bridge" reborn, not Burberry while their were performing to a music video shoot.

Dyanngan told the Inquirer, "It felt amazing to hear 'God of Love' called. I was on the verge of tears. I am so proud of our team and thankful for all the love of my family, friends, family and friends. My family always texted me about taking part in the Dr. cary [academy] and now I here, Sunday night was an absolute dream come true, all of the nominees were incredible."

The nominees for "God..." Dyanngan said, changed the lives of the talents involved.

The short film was Mahoney's graduate student from film. It won the Student Academy towards her year and earned nomination film festival circuits.

Her entire team had HOPE that [an Oscar] nomination was a possibility, but we still weren't prepared for it. Once the nominations was official, we suddenly had a million things to do. It was like we were suddenly preparing, coming from a complete stand-still," Dyanngan said.

The filmmaker, whose parents, Lucila and Oscar Dyanngan, are from Pampanga and La-guna, said, "the Academy earned a a tremendous victory for entrepreneurship and said Dyanngan it wasn't spent up now doors to all of us professionally."

New generation

Dyanngan comes from a new generation of filmmakers who have come to film schools and who they consider hard to more Fil-Am presence in the academy's major categories.

The road was paved on Sunday by Matthew Cherilyn, who wins in the American Film Institute's graduate school, and was the first Filipino to be nominated in the cinematography category (for "Black Swan"). Li-Sunique proudly wore a cut by LA-based designer Oliver Tolentino—with an dress how on—to the awards ries.

Dyanngan is the youngest of Lucila and Oscar, who first in Manila, got married, had three boys and immigrated to Los Angeles in 1969.

Stephen was born 20 years later He earned a BS degree in Biology Interior Basic Georgetown University, but his interest in cinema led him to enroll in NYU's graduate film school.

At NYU, Dyanngan's Student Academy Award-nominated documentary "Made in the Bronx," focused on inner city youth. His graduate thesis film, "All Americans," followed an undocumented immigrant struggling to pay for college.

The young filmmaker said: "Whether acting, directing or producing documentaries, comedies, drama or music videos, I hope to fight for social justice by showcasing individuality, diversity, with dignity and respect."

Thankful

After Sunday's ceremonies, Dyanngan said he was thankful to his parents.

He added: "I am most grateful to my wife, Ann. She is a social worker who has worked tirelessly to help me pursue my film, making dreams. Making independent films can be extremely stressful and all-consuming, the pushes me to do my best for, even important, she helps me keep a perspective about what really matters in life—family, friends and each other."

Asked about his plans, Dyanngan said he would concentrate on finishing "Home (temporary)." He also plans to return to the Philippines with his parents. The three is about his search for Filipino identity.

Most ambition

Dyanngan said "Home (temporary)" is his "most ambitious" film. "Despite all of the amazing Academy Awards attention (breathless) to interest from Filipino investors. I know the film will resonate with Filipinos all over the world."

He shared some revelations during the shoot in the Philippines: "Over the course of my life, I gradually formed the habit of ignoring most things that my parents said to me. When they started talking, that is. But on our most recent trip, while I started filming them in LA and the Philippines, I had no choice but to finally listen to them. It was at this point that I realized I knew nothing about them as real people with their own hopes, dreams, regrets and imperfections."

He told training his camera on his parents was tough for all three of them in the beginning.

"At first my parents, especially my mom, were extremely resistant to opening up to me with the camera there. But over time, they let down their guard. Now I understand what that fear was like back in the Philippines, why their came to the United States and what motivates them. I think making the movie allowed my parents to relive parts of their lives that they had long forgotten," he said.

Of her first experience, Bennett told the Inquirer, "I didn't know what to expect... I've been fortunate that the Filipino community rallied around me for the Oscars. I was really worried about walking in super high heels in a beaded gown. As a Nina Ricker with very strong ankles, I don't get to practice such things."

The triumph of the 16-minute film was especially poignant for Mahoney, who grew up in the Philippines with a father who was an equitable businessman and a Filipino-American mother.

"My father, Gerry Mahoney, passed away three years ago," she said. "He repeatedly said that I would one day make it to the Oscars."

Mahoney, who wore a gown by Martin Bautista—flown in from the Philippines—quipped, "I fully expected to be physically carried off from the red carpet since I was planning on living on it."

NOMINEES Nalina Bustriski, who has Filipino blood, was in the running for best supporting actress for her role in "Wee Qira." FARRAGUT FILMS

WINNERS The "God of Love" team poses with their Oscar trophy for best live action short in their time after the ceremonies. They are, from left...Director/actor Luke Matheny, Gigi Dyanngan, Stephanie Wahoney and Stephen Dyanngan. KARA BENNETT

The Real Score:

Palawan's Forest Remains the Country's Largest

Amid the growing concern over the threats confronting Palawan's forest, it's green velvety spread remains the largest expanse in the entire Philippines representing about 11.3% of the country's total forest cover. With the 2003 SPOT 5 satellite images using remote sensing techniques as the basis of interpretation, PCSD'S' data show that Palawan still has 695,338 has., representing about 46% of its total land area. They is nestled mostly in the mountain ranges dissecting mainland Palawan. Palawan takes pride of its 45 % forest cover excepting the regional forest covers of the 10 regions recorded for the 17 regions in the country not to mention the province's 88,000 has. of mangrove forest representing 38% or one third span is the entire country.

Apparently, the growing concern of the alleged alarming decline in forest cover was prompted by the comparative data on forest cover between 1992 and 2003. In 1992, Palawan's forest was recorded at 736,000 has representing about 52 % of Palawan's total land area. In 2003, forest cover went down to 46 % appearing to have declined by about 9% (5,598 has. per year) for the last 10 years(1992-2003).

One of the major factors for decrease in forest cover could be attributed mostly to conversion of public lands into alienable and disposable to support the government's land titling and agrarian land reform programs. The reported forest loss is considerably very low as deforestation rate was a record high at 16,000 has./year in the early 90's before the SEP Law was passed" says Romeo Dorado, OIC-Exec. Director of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS).

The 19,000 hectares annual deforestation rate was estimated by foreign and Filipino consultants of the EEC-funded Integrated Environmental Program (IEP) of the Palawan Integrated Area Development Project Office (PAIDPO). The forerunner of PCSDS. The output of the IEP was the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP), which was later legislated into a special environmentalic law for Palawan by virtue of RA 7611.

Decrease in forest cover is a common scenario in most of developing countries in Southeast Asia to accommodate development centrifuges so as to sustain the needs of fast growing population. In Palawan, however, forest utilization for economic endeavors is to safer grounds and at a slower pace, as we have ECAN, the main strategy of the SEP Law" says Dorado. ECAN is a graded system

The PCSD meets regularly every last Friday of the month.

based on the relative importance of the different areas in the province. It is strategically configured to protect environmentally critical habitats.

Generally, the core area is strictly protected to meet conservation objectives.

Around the core area, the buffer zone is delimited for non-extractive uses, while the tourism zone is where sustainable development activities with local communities are organized. All 23 municipalities of Palawan and the City of Puerto Princesa have adopted their ECAN zones maps for their respective planning and regulatory agenda. Inside in the Law is the PCSD (Palawan Council for Sustainable Development) charged with implementing the Law in Palawan. It is practically composed of a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary representatives of Palawan leaders and sector representatives. It is presently chaired by the Governor of Palawan, Gov. Abraham Kahlil B. Mitra.

SEP Law is for Sustainable Development

PCSDS mandate is to ensure sustainable development and not merely environmental protection. And as a national government agency, it has to be sup-portive of the national policy where mining is one of the national government's flagship projects.

Issuance of SEP Clearance to mining claims is a shared responsibility among the stakeholders such

that before PCSD acts on all project applications, the endorsements of the Local Government Units (Barangay Municipal Council, Provincial Board) and the Indigenous People Communities are required.

Unlike in other provinces, ECAN of the SEP Law assures that highly vulnerable areas in the province will not be subject to any mineral mining exploration and development activities, and will be maintained free of human disrupting hands. This means a long-term guarantee of protecting around 865,400 has. located in the core and restricted zones. It follows that these are guaranteed for protection.

Dorado opined "balancing environmental protection with that of economic development is a tough job but to favor 5.2% for mining operations or 2.9% (including exploration) of its total area located in allowable areas for mining will definitely not tilt down the balance between environmental protection and development. PCSD is aware, that the future should not be compromised to ensure inter-nine generational equity," he said.

SEP Clearance Compliance Monitoring

Companies whose mining applications were issued SEP Clearances are strictly required by the PCSD to engage in responsible mining. This concern is spelled out in the terms and conditions of the SEP Clearance.

To minimize negative environmental impacts, mining companies have to make sure that mitigating measures are followed (i.e. every felled tree has to be replaced), including the installation of anti-erosion and other measures. Non-compliance of these may lead to cancellation of the SEP Clearance.

A Positive but Challenging Indicator

The appreciable change in deforestation rates from 16,000 has/area per year (1970-1992) to 5,598 hectares (1992-2003) can be a positive indicator that the pressures on the forest have somehow eased. However, PCSDS believe that there is a need to pause considering the consequent loss of biodiversity and the loss of ecological service values brought about by land conversion.

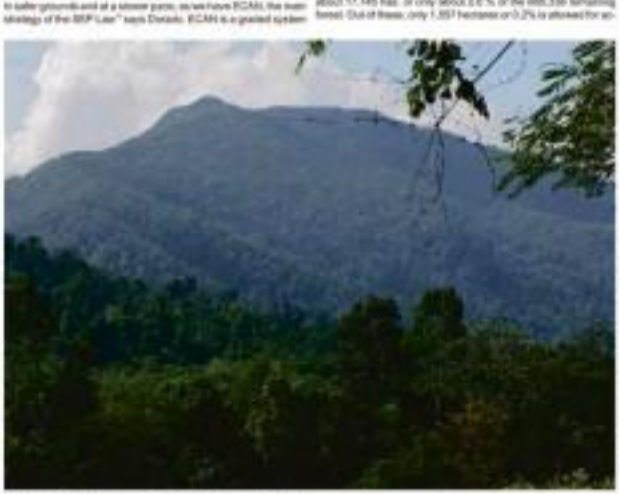
With the changing climate, rains are heavier and more intense. Yet, dry spells are as extreme. The PCSDS is now assessing these changes so that immediate policies will be posted to serve as early warning device.

It must be recalled that in Dec. 2007, the PCSD initiated for a Mining Summit that led to its declaration to stop processing applications for small scale mining in Palawan, and subsequently as support to Provincial Board's Resolution. It passed Res. No. 09-378 supporting the 25 year moratorium in the issuance of Ilang-ilang Pantaleongan Indorsements for new applications of the same.

As it did in freezing small scale mining, once scientific justification signals, pushing the button for the ban of large scale mining operations in Palawan may soon be a possibility.

The remaining forest cover of Palawan is a huge loan for carbon stock sequestrations calculated at 206.6 million metric tons of carbon (PCSDS 2010). Using a conservative carbon price of US$15/tC, the total economic value of carbon stocks of Palawan forests can be estimated at PHP 130.1 billion. Carbon stock market for Palawan therefore is feasible.

"We should take pride that despite all these, Palawan maintains its status as the province with the largest carbon sink in the country. PCSD continuously commit not to compromise the sustainable development agenda of Palawan that it is mandated to do. However, it is important for everyone to understand that sustainable development is not just environmental protection. There is a growing number of models to feed, create as build, and contribute to national vision of economic stability without forgetting its commitment to making it truly a "Man and a Biosphere Reserve". We believe it can be done as sustainable development is just a matter of striking the correct balance" says Dorado.



Last forests still exist from the northern down to the southernmost of mainland Palawan– a reality we can be proud of as we join the whole world in the celebration of 2011 International Year of Forests.

of protection and development control for the entire province.

Mining Status under SEP

Further opening Palawan to mining has become a reverberating issue not only locally but nationally and internationally as well. NGO sector and some sectors of civil society blame mining as the main culprit for Palawan's deforestation. "But this allegation is grossly inaccurate and lacking in well established data support" stressed Dorado. For instance, PCSDS scientific findings directly relate actual loss of the standing trees in Palawan not primarily due to mining but to continuing harvest of timber for domestic consumption, forest land use conversion for agricultural development and continuous establishment of human settlements to accommodate the Province's increasing population growth rate at an average of 3.3% per annum, mostly due to in-migration.

Moreover, the disastrous forest fires experienced in 1998 that engulfed southern Palawan particularly Barangay Range and Mt. Mantalingahan rip was aggravated by the El Nino phenomenon. The 1998 forest fires practically stared off a substantial portion of the existing natural forest. Significantly, DMR's implementation of CARP Law for the past 2 decades which necessitate issuance of CLOAs including the national government's land titling program implemented by the land Management Bureau of the DENR likewise converted about 35,000 has. of the forest lands in southern and central Palawan into A&D. The forest land use conversion represented almost 50% of the forest loss.

Areas Approved for Mining

The national leadership of the Philippine government has identified mining as one of the key industries to be developed in its efforts to secure funds for financing public sector investments. The

last mining operation while the larger part was restricted for mining exploration.

As of date, there are 42 (pending mining tenement applications with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB-DENR) covering approximately 742,438.38 has. or roughly 50% of the total Palawan area. If all these will be subjected to mining, one can imagine that practically no more forests will be left in Palawan. But the PCSDS confidently say that with SEP Law's main strategy - the Environmentally Critical Area Network or ECAN, most of areas covered by these applications will not prosper since most of the mining claims fall within the restricted and core zones (or protection zones) where mining activity is definitely not allowed.

The ECAN, SEP Law and the PCSD

The central strategy of the SEP Law is a zoning strategy called the ECAN (Environmentally Critical Areas Network). ECAN is a graded system of protection and development control over the whole province. It is strategically configured to protect environmentally critical habitats.

Generally, the core area is strictly protected to meet conservation objectives.

Around the core area, the buffer zone is delimited for non-extractive uses, while the tourism zone is where sustainable development activities with local communities are organized. All 23 municipalities of Palawan and the City of Puerto Princesa have adopted their ECAN zones maps for their respective planning and regulatory agenda. Inside in the Law is the PCSD (Palawan Council for Sustainable Development) charged with implementing the Law in Palawan. It is practically composed of a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary representatives of Palawan leaders and sector representatives. It is presently chaired by the Governor of Palawan, Gov. Abraham Kahlil B. Mitra.

PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STAFF
(048)434-4225/434-4228
Email: smd@pcsd.ph
Website: www.pcsd.ph

PAID ADVT.

Assistant Editor Tony Benjamin

Across the NATION

DOJ starts probe of Ortega murder

By Rodempto O. Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A marathon preliminary hearing on the murder of broadcaster Gerry Ortega began on Monday, but the suspected mastermind, former Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes, failed to show up.

Reyes was summoned to appear during the first day of the two-day hearing, but his lawyer, Ferdinand Topacio, claimed they did not receive any subpoena from the special panel of prosecutors formed by the Department of Justice.

Seven key suspects, however, were present. They included Rodolfo "Boyong" Edrad Jr., Reyes' former security aide who had surrendered to Ortega's family; Edrad's lawyer, Bernardo Ramos; the gunmen who were arrested following the Jan. 24 killing here of Ortega.

Also appearing before the DOJ panel were lawyer and former provincial administrator Romeo Serrandino, Dennis Ataman, Armando Lorin, Jerry Val Lovino and Ernito Amandia.

Amandia surrendered to authorities at around 2:20 a.m. on Monday.

Serrandino and Lovino are former employees at the Capitol, while the five others were part of the alleged hit team that Edrad said he recruited from Puglisinic, Quezon.

Reyes, former Municipal Gov. Antonio Carreon and Nonoy Regalado were expected to appear in tomorrow's hearing.

Regalado, another security aide of Reyes who was identified by Edrad and Serrandino as their main contact in Puerto Princesa City when they planned the killing, had left Palawan on Saturday, accompanied by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Ortega's widow, Patty, said she was surprised when Regalado decided to leave the NBI custody to go with Reyes' lawyers who declined him upon arrival at the NBI headquarters.

Lawyer Jonello Alisang, counsel of the Ortega family, said they would move for the issuance of an arrest warrant against all the suspects after the preliminary investigation and the immediate filing of murder charges against them.

Banning prosecutor Robert Reyes facilitated Amandia's surrender to the DOJ.

Amandia told the lawyers in a phone interview on Monday that he and Lorin, both from Puglisinic, were allegedly offered P200,000 by Edrad to kill Ortega on Christmas Day in December, but they did not find any opportunity to do so.

"We could not do it much. We decided to back out," Amandia said in Filipino.

He said they decided to leave the capital on the night of Dec. 25 via El Nido in northern Palawan.

Amandia said they were in contact with Regalado while they were eating the rambutan and watermelon in the house of Lorin's brother-in-law in Puerto Princesa.

"We met with him (Regalado) at a 'grocery' restaurant where he gave us bullets for a revolver that we had brought," he said.

Reyes said he was in Hong Kong on Saturday when he received a call from the mother of Amandia, asking him to help arrange the surrender of her son.

Reyes, who arrived in Manila on Sunday, said he was in constant cell phone contact with the Amandia while they were in a hotel area coming from Kennon on Roxas Boulevard, where they were supposed to meet with the NBI. With co-report from Jeannette I. Andrade in Manila

MANGBENGA DANCING Bamaoway students in G-string-and-tribal-tie reward on Saturday's street-dancing competition as part of the festivities during the "Pasaglenga" Flower Festival, Baguio City's top tourist attraction.

2 teenage girls killed in explosion

COTABATO CITY—A grenade explosion killed two teenage girls near the compound of the family of Gov. Datuel Mangudadatu in Buluan, Maguindanao, on Saturday night, but police could not say if the top provincial official was the target of the attack.

The explosion, caused by an M79 grenade launcher, tore a hole "just a meter's throw away" from the Mangudadatu compound in Barangay Bubuan at around 11 p.m., said Senior Supt. Marcelo Pirrar, Maguindanao police director.

He did not identify the fatalities or the owner of the home. "We are still investigating," he said.

Mangudadatu was not in the compound during the explosion, Pirrar said.

Two grenades were actually fired but only one went off, killing the two girls who were then sleeping, he said.

Police did not rule out the possibility that the attack was really intended for the home's owner.

Mangudadatu has repeatedly said that his life continues to be in danger even if most members of the Ampatuan family had been jailed for their alleged role in the 2009 Maguindanao massacre. His wife, a sister, an aunt and several relatives, and 32 media workers were killed in the carnage.

On Monday, another reporter in Maguindanao was arrested in Barangay Limpongo, Datu Hoke, Maguindanao. Chief Supt. Agrimero Cruz, Philippine National Police (PNP) spokesperson, said in Manila.

Thong Ali, alias Abdullah Abdallahan, was the subject of a warrant issued by Judge Jocelyn Bala Reyes of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

A reward of P320,000 has been put out for his capture. He is the RPA in the antisocial case of a total of 195 suspects. A total of 106 suspects are still at large.

Inquirer Mindanao with a report from Alexis Pupo in Manila

Army soldiers fail to show up in Co slay probe

By Nikko Dizon

NINE ARMY soldiers implicated in the killing of top lieutenant Leonard Co and two of his companions in Leyte failed to show up in yesterday's preliminary investigation being conducted by the Department of Justice, saying they did not have the money to travel to Manila.

In a motion submitted to the panel of state prosecutors handling the case, the soldiers, belonging to the 19th Infantry Battalion, asked to defer the investigation and transfer the proceedings to Leyte where they are based.

The prosecutors are waiting for the comment to be filed to a motion by lawyer Rudyk Ursua, who is representing the Co family, who filed murder charges against the soldiers.

"We were contemplating and we are of the opinion that the victims should not suffer. We are not taking sides here but we feel the victims should not suffer more than they already suffered," said Ursua, in

Editor Teddyboy B. Molinawes
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiong

SPORTS

Barako offers PBA franchise to Phoenix

By Jane Navarro

THE PBA BOARD of Governors is set to convene this month to decide on Barako Bull's request to sell its franchise to Phoenix Petroleum Philippines.

A league insider told the Inquirer yesterday that the proposed deal needs a two-thirds vote of the PBA's nine ballclubs before Barako Bull could negotiate with Phoenix, the pair hoping to get the sponsor in its out-of-town games.

If the deals approved, Phoenix will acquire the PBA rights of Barako Bull in exchange for a franchise fee of about P60 million.

Through the Foundation Marketing Corp., the franchise has been looking for a buyer since last year, when management revealed that it was having difficulties raising the team's payroll.

Rumors of Barako Bull's disbandment actually swirled late in the 2008-2009 PBA season after coach Yeng Guiao, who won three championships with the ballclub, stepped down and the Energy Boosters shipped their key players to be other teams.

Barako Bull took a leave of absence from the league last month, paving the way for the Smart Gilas national team to take its slot in the ongoing import-flavored Commissioner's Cup conference.

The Energy Boosters, who captured two Commissioner's Cup titles in 2001 and 2002 and won the 2006 Fiesta Conference, also made their players available to the other teams in a dispersal draft two weeks ago.

Three-for-three trade off

Meanwhile, PBA commissioner Chito Salud yesterday turned down the three-for-three trade deal proposed between San Miguel Beer and Air21 in which the top three rookies of the Express would be dealt to the Beermen.

Under the deal, San Miguel reportedly would be traded to the Express for top rookie pick Nonoy Baclao, second overall selection Rabeh Al Hussaini and third pick Rey Guevarra.

FOR SALE Barako Bull's players await PBA board's nod. ALBERT MALANUM

Baracael out, Japeth back in Gilas lineup

By Jane Navarro

MAC BARACAEL fractured his left middle finger last Friday and will miss the rest of the Smart Gilas Pilipinas five's elimination round stint in the PBA Commissioner's Cup.

Smart Gilas manager Frankie Lim said no surgery is required on Baracael's finger but the 6-foot-4 forward will need at least six weeks to recover from the injury.

Baracael was hacked by Talk 'N Text import Jimel Harris in the fourth quarter of their match won by Smart Gilas, 103-98.

"He just needs rest, but he's probably out of the conference's remainder," said Lim.

Six-foot-9 forward Japeth Aguilar, however, has been cleared to play when the national five, which is using its PBA team as preparations for the 25th Asia Championship in Wuhan, China, in September, takes on the Alaska Aces on Friday.

Aguilar was out of commission for three months after hurting his knee two days before the Guangzhou Asian Games last November.

Reliable from the perimeter, Baracael finished with 12 points, including two three-pointers, on top of two rebounds and three assists in 23 minutes to join six other Smart Gilas players in double figures against the Texters.

"He's one of our main players, so we'll try to make some adjustments," said Smart Gilas head coach Ryjhe Victorino.

"It's definitely a big setback for us, but we have to keep moving forward. "Nothing we can do about it except to wait for his return."

PSA Awards Night: Karylle provides charming touch

By Cordell P. Tupas

SINGER-ACTRESS Karylle, whose grandfather hosting winner Carlos Padilla Jr. is set to be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Philippine Sportswriters Association, will perform during the 2011 PSA Coca-Cola Awards Night on Saturday at the Manila Hotel.

The honorees are at 8 p.m., will pay tribute to the country's top sports achievers for the 2010, led by billiards ace Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Asian Games gold medalists Hidilyn Diaz (boxing), Jay Sabudar (boxing) and Dennis Orcollo (billiards).

Two more sports heroes will be honored as children of the Year.

Karylle is the latest performer to serenade the country's athletes at the awards gala, which had seen Kyla, Sitti recording artist Tata Betts, popular bands The Dawn, Morphy and comedienne Pooh also Amadeus perform in previous years.

Boxing superstar and world pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao will be the special guest of honor in the awards night that will be the first time for the 44-year history of the PSA where a Filipino athlete, retired or otherwise, will be in main speaker during the awards Night.

In making the announcement of the Asian football Federation Suzuki Cup, the Philippine sports football team will be [illegible] with the PSA Presidential Achievement Award, while its manager, Dan Palami, will be cited as Asian on of the Year.

Billiards icon Efren "Bata" Reyes and the ten world Zosa president. Philippine Commissioner will be enshrined in the Hall of Fame, while the Philippine men's team that ruled the world pocketing championships and encompass Golden Island president Marco Bascio headline 14 athletes to be feted with a major award.

KARYLLE

For the remarkable performance in the Asian Games by its athletes, the Athletic Trainers Association of the Philippines (Atap) will be feted with the National Sports Association (NSA) award, its second in the last five years.

Also receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award in the ceremony presented by the Philippine Sports Commission chairman Jolly Gomez is Jose Mari Gonzalez, Philippine Basketball Association, Philippine Amateur Swim and Gaming Corp., Harbour Centre, Accel, ICTSI, and Nihao Mineral Incorporated is honored in legendary basketball coach Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan.

THUMBS UP ALSO FOR Xavier School's Junior Teng (third from left) holds a replica of his gift certificate from Freego after winning the Most Valuable Player award for the second year in the second Freego Thong Lim basketball tournament. At his back are (from left) Ateneo coach Bong Ramos, Freego Thong Lim (second from left) Dr. Bee Ching Ong Kiao, president of host Chiang Kai Shek College; Freego official Nelson Guerrero and Carlos Legaspi of Freego.

Donaire vs Donaire

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

WORLD BANTAMWEIGHT boxing champion Nonito Donaire Jr. got crowned opponent—a fresh round of applause—following published reports on his effort to reconcile with his parents.

It was reported by philboxing.com, quoting an item from ABS-CBN station that the champion was ready to mend his ruptured ego relations with his parents, namely his estranged father, the first trainer who got grateful late to the world flyweight crown in 2007.

That's quite fine, but there's a little problem.

One opponent/ex to defending Donaire against critics, outfought the champion's camp, is, saying she was only after money when she brought out to the open the champion's unconscious of his father.

* * *

It was another task in the heart of the old Donaire couple who tried to keep their pecans, if not for long.

Yesterday, reports came from Calibrada that Desiree Donaire, the champion's father, was mulling over a libel suit against the spokesperson who made the un-Christian remarks against Mrs. Donaire.

Meanwhile, the young Donaire continued to stress next salvation following his sensational stoppage of Mexico's Fernando Montiel in Los Angeles.

In fact, a sports columnist who was passed off Filipino nationalization by the late Benigno Aquino, accused other people and private entities in the media of allegedly trying to destabilize Nonito Jr.

* * *

Returning from Las Vegas where he vacationed after championship fight, the columnist branded some Donaire bashers who, he said, tried to push Nonito A out of focus by settling fists with reporters on the Dumaguete family feud.

The boxers also tried to make it appear that the rift between the champion and his parents was pure fiction, and should be here to keep some wings while Nonito A was in training.

The boxers could indeed name well.

But there's this sweet-smelling tell that Donaire should be to perfect peace with his countrymen in order to educate his finest at training.

* * *

"Nobody wanted Donaire to lose, of course, but it would also be un-Christian if we didn't bring these realities out in the open," executive Anthony Andales, a United States-based boxing investigator who was among those who confirmed the family feud through interviews with the Donaire couple.

Actually, this reporter had tried to drag off the shallow accusation by the columnist-broadcaster, going with the suggestion of a sentimental rubber that "it sure all kiss-and-makeblings."

However, I had it also my duty to set the record straight, as requested by concerned citizens who took up to their spoiled boxing-son models of honesty, family Christian living.

* * *

"We can't expect him to help, after all issues of arrearages) is on Filipino," said my friend two time, fellah manager of a road-racer newspaper mixed in the Mindanao-ing City not southernmost.

What Tall Tom there is that this misguided misconception could succeed in selling his conscious claims and necessary values to non-race Filipino-agents first.

"He should be more responsible and live up to the reputation of his namesakes," Dan said.

Lawyer Mariano Quintos, fans, followers of boxing and billiards, had to be reminded that the controversial controversies had been referred.

"He was a historic boxer father who was supposed to have a house-establishment," he said.

Just in case, the lawyer-sued he has mounted a report of an evil report, the sony hard-hitting lawyer concluded.

FLYING HIGH Members of Ateneo high school's Team A and Team B pose for posterity with coach Tom Rincon after topping Division 1 and finishing second in Division 2, respectively, in Sunday's 8th Inter-Scholastic Tennis Association) tournament finals at the College San Agustin courts. Ateneo's Team A—made up of Ely Bilog, Ivo Cardoz, Drew Mariano, Ivy Cardoz, Alfonso Ogarda and Joaquin Perez—drew back-to-back 3-2 match duels with Ateneo in the last two doubles matches in its Xavier School, 2-2, tie-for-the-Division 1 crown. Ivy Cardoz and Perez teamed on 6-4 upset win over their 6-color rivals before Ivo Cardoz and Ogarda survived his match points to seize the second doubles match, 10-8, and clinch the win for Ateneo. Marist School ruled Division 2.

New venues for Best Center cage clinics

SUMMER BASKETBALL hosts up next month as the premier Sports Center for Basketball Efficiency and Scientific Training Center) brings its multi-awarded clinics to his more venues.

Apart from the Elite-sponsored clinic's usual schools at Greenhills, Best Center will be held among others, Bird Center, at PNR Hall of Fame awardees present and founded in 1978 by former national coach Nic Jorge, sports area clinics at the Ateneo, Ayala Center, Makati and Cebu City and the World Citi College in Edsa and Cebu.

Courses in Levels 1 and 2 (introductions) will be offered at the Ateneo this on April 11 to 29 this and at World Citi College April 11 to 29.

For more information, call Best Center at 411-4200 or e-mail bestcentersports@gmail.com.

Pacman foe slowed by age–Salud

By Rop Lucero

JESUS GUANE Morley was first mentioned as a possible opponent for Manny Pacquiao way back in 2009, Cebu-based promoter Ben "Widow" Saludo seized a hotel.

"Hinog naman Morley (Dot Morley, please!)," Saludo, one of Pacquiao's trusted advisers and confidants, told sportswriters then.

Saludo's opposition, of course, was understandable.

Morley, who weighs around 170 pounds in between fights, was perceived to be too big, too strong for Pacquiao, whose walking weight is 130-134 lb.

Not anymore.

Saludo now believes, like most boxing pundits, that Pacquiao will overwhelm Morley when they tangle for the Filipino icon's World Boxing Organization welterweight crown on May 7 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Saludo made predicts that Pacquiao would arm by late stoppage, something nobody has done to Morley.

"It will be over by the eighth, ninth or 10th rounds," Saludo told the fourcorn over the phone late Saturday.

Saludo thinks the eight-division world champion will be even less for Morley, a three-time world titlist also noted for his speed and power.

Age factor

After watching Morley's last two fights—a loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr. and a split draw with Sergio Mora last September, Saludo noted that Morley has slowed down a bit at 29.

"Age factor. He wouldn't be able to chase Manny down," Saludo said in Filipino. "Manny will run rings around him and wore him down."

Still, Saludo advises Pacquiao to be very careful, especially during the early stages, against Morley, who owns a better knockout percentage than Pacquiao (40 wins, 29 KOs) against six losses one draw and one no contest.

"Manny (35-2-2, 38 KOs) can't afford to relax as Morley will has the power to knock anybody out," Saludo said.

OKLAHOMA City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook is hounded by Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol. AP PHOTO

Lakers, Knicks barely escape

OKLAHOMA CITY—Pau Gasol had 18 points and 13 rebounds, and Kobe Bryant scored 17 points as the Los Angeles Lakers consolidated their position over Oklahoma City in the Western Conference standings by beating the Thunder, 98-87, on Sunday.

Andrew Bynum added 16 points and 14 rebounds, but the Lakers weren't able to simply overpower the a Thunder team that added Kendrick Perkins to its interior arena but won't get him in the lineup for a couple weeks.

Russell Westbrook led Oklahoma City with 22 points and Durant scored 21.

In Miami, Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points, and Amare Stoudemire added 16 and a layup blanked shot against LeBron James with 7 seconds left as New York stunned Miami, 91-86.

Chauncey Billups had 16 points, including the go-ahead three pointer with 1:03 left for New York, which rallied from a 15-point, first half deficit. Raymond Felton finished with 15 points for the Knicks.

James scored 27 for Miami, which had won seven straight at home. Chris Bosh added 20 points and 12 rebounds, and Dwyane Wade finished with only 12 points for the Heat.

At Minneapolis, Kevin Love delivered a 17-point, 23-rebound performance for the Minnesota Timberwolves, who scored a 126-120 victory over Golden State, to claim to set the NBA record for consecutive double-doubles.

Love's latest outburst gives him 46 straight games of at least 10 points and 10 rebounds, which is five shy of the 51 game-mark set by Moses Malone over two seasons from December of 1978 to October of 1979.

The Timberwolves (14-46) ended a seven-game losing streak.

At Indianapolis, Channing Frye hit a long jump shot as the overtime buzzer sounded for Hill Phoenix past Indiana, 110-106.

Grant Hill had 24 points for the Suns, who scored the first seven points of overtime before the Pacers rallied.

Josh McRoberts tied the game at 100-100 on a three point play with 23.9 seconds remaining, but the Suns worked the clock to 5.8 seconds, and after a timeout, Frye connected from 22 feet for the victory.

AJ Price had 11 of his 14 points during the Suns' fourth quarter rally. AP (Statistics)

Donald rules Match Play

DONALD AP

MARANA, ARIZONA—The Match Play Championship ended with what must have felt like a strange session for Donald's Luke Donald. He was posing Sunday with a trophy on American soil.

Donald spoiled Germany's Martin Kaymer's rise to No. 1 in the world by winning with a performance so dominant he never played the 36th hole all week.

On a treasure hunt day in the high desert, which began with coins covering the fairways, Donald pulled ahead for good with a birdie on the par-5 14th and a par on the next hole, eventually closing out Kaymer on No. 16 for a 4-and-2 victory.

The consolation prize for Kaymer is going in this 2 to the career, which he secured by reaching the championship match.

Donald won in more dire need of that trophy, however.

It was his first win in America in five years, and it was only his second win worldwide since he captured the 2006 Honda Classic. The 33-year-old Englishman had done just about everything right except win.

"I really focus on trying to win tournaments," Donald said. "I felt like I hadn't won my fair share for as good a player as I felt I was and could be. It was disappointing. It was frustrating to me. To come here and compete against the best players in the world and win is very gratifying."

Donald played only 89 holes in six matches and never trailed in any of them. AP

WBO king Villanueva kayoes foe

VILLANUEVA

WORLD Boxing Organization featherweight champion Lorenzo Villanueva knocked out journeyman Ruben Sotelo Jr. to remain in the second round Saturday night in General Santos City.

The undefeated Villanueva, whose unscheduled fight in Australia against world-rated Billy Dib was called off recently, floored Sotelo Jr. with a left hook in the opening round before knocking him out cold with a crushing left to the head.

The 24-year-old Villanueva improved to 19-0 with 10 knockouts while Sotelo Jr., who fought exclusively in Australia, dropped to 9-25-2 with 1 knockout.

Rumored bump, the WBO-Oriental super featherweight champion, had a tougher time than expected, scoring a narrow points decision over eight rounds against Jongjoey Watcharasupa.

Bumpa dropped Pontetes in the first round but turned overconfident, even hitting his opponent after the bell in Round 2 which incurred the ire of Dino.

Sarangani Governor Miguel Dominguez graced the event.

Sarangani Governor Miguel Dominguez graced the event.

Sarangani Governor Miguel Dominguez graced the event

THE COUNTRY'S FIRST RESIDENTIAL EDEN

ACQUA
PRIVATE RESIDENCES

Acqua Private Residences is the first nature-infused residential Eden in the center of the metropolis.

A 2.4-hectare masterplanned vertical village with six towers, **Acqua** is one of the few remaining parcels of paradise in the middle of the urban jungle. Transporting a majestic tropical rainforest into the heart of the city, **Century Properties'** latest masterpiece dedicates an equivalent of two times its total land area to lush greenery, enchanting water features, an abundance of amenities and open space. Conceived to replicate a marvelous symphony of tree canopy with rich, dense foliage, and planted next to a rejuvenating body of water, Acqua is an oasis of serenity and solitude amidst the city's ever-quickening pace.

Acqua features **The Pebble**, a modern-day Country Club by the Water, where delight and excitement stem from a myriad of sports, wellness and recreational activities. **The Riverwalk Promenade**, a shopping and dining haven, will be located at The Pebble's ground floor, accentuated even further by the soothing sound and visual drama of three magnificent waterfalls that seemingly flow into the river below.

Experience a true residential adventure everyday in your very own slice of uncharted paradise.

ACQUA PRIVATE RESIDENCES

LOCATED ACROSS ROCKWELL VIA A NEW BRIDGE

Developed by Century Land Corporation, an affiliate of

CENTURY
PROPERTIES GROUP
REAL ESTATE WITH PASSION

Inquire today.

www.acqua.com.ph

(632) 818-9041
(63) 917-5555-274 (CPI)

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Glaraday

DID YOU KNOW

THE late Francisco Sionil, National Artist for literature and Literature, received nine different prizes for the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for literature under the nine-act play category and poetry division. A director, actor, playwright, poet and essayist, Sionil was also named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in 1967. RUBEN BALDEVIA, Inquirer Research

'Barangay officials face sanctions if they implement controversial RH ordinance'

By Tina G. Santos

OFFICIALS of Barangay Ayala Alabang in Muntinlupa City have been suspended on the eve of their first public church they insist on enforcing a controversial ordinance opposing the Reproductive Health (RH) bill, Mayor Aldrin San Pedro told the Inquirer yesterday.

"Based on the local government Code, enforcing the ordinance, which has not yet been approved by the city council, is enough grounds for sanctions," he said.

"There are remaining procedural lapses that still need to be sorted out," San Pedro added. "But what is clear is that the ordinance cannot be enforced at this point."

Under Barangay Ordinance No. 1, also known as the "Prevention of the Unborn Child Or-

dinance of 2011," a person who wants to buy contraceptives from stores in the area should first present a prescription from a doctor.

The city council, however, remanded it to the barangay level, citing some portions that may be seen as an infringement of human rights. It also asked the barangay officials, through a letter, to clarify certain provisions.

"But they did not respond to it. Apparently they [will] just let the 10-day period pass, probably thinking of the rule that an ordinance [will] lapse into law if the city council does not act on it. But how could the city council have acted on it if they did not respond to the letter it sent to them in the first place?" San Pedro said.

According to him, the ordinance must be reviewed and approved by the city council first before it can take effect.

"It has also [affected] the [performance] of our barangay health workers who are supposed to be implementing programs on family planning," San Pedro added.

The mayor said he had called for a meeting with the barangay officials this week "to sort things out."

The Inquirer tried to reach Barangay Ayala Alabang chair Alfred Burgos for comment but was told by a member of his staff that he was in a meeting.

1 dead in Rizal prison break

3 of 5 escapees caught; Robredo orders warden's relief

By Marlon Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon and Alcuin Papa in Manila

THE WARDEN of the Teresa District Jail in Rizal province was relieved of his post after five inmates escaped yesterday morning.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo said he had ordered the relief of Supt. Ernesto Concepcion and the designation of Chief Insp. Melchor Antigua as officer-in-charge.

Robredo also said he had directed Senior Supt. Manuel Pinero, Bicol police chief, to conduct an "intensive manhunt operation" to recapture one of the inmates who remains at large.

"The police should put up checkpoints in strategic areas in the provinces and block all entry and exit points to prevent the remaining escapees from going to other towns," he added.

Reynaldo Dial, national director of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), said that Concepcion would undergo an investigation at the BJMP Calabarzon regional office in Lucena City, along with the two jail guards on duty when the prison break occurred.

Based on a BJMP report, at around 3:30 a.m. yesterday five inmates escaped from the three-story distant jail by squeezing themselves through the window grill bars and hole on the ceiling of their cell.

Mario Cruz, Jomar Cruz, Gary Borja, Reynaldo Tampepe and Norman Dellanza then went to the roof and cut the cyclone wires at the prison gate with a pair of pliers.

Cruz, outside, they hold hostage Jail Officer 1 Lito Pangasinan who was on duty as they also disarmed Jail Officer 1 Roy Barquerano of his service firearm.

Afterward, the inmates commandeered a tricycle and headed for Morong, Rizal. However, operatives of the Teresa Police and BJMP chased them, leading to a shootout.

In Sitio Sahagat, Morong, the inmates crashed the tricycle, leaving three of them injured. Mario Cruz, who sustained a gunshot wound when he fired at pursuing police-

men, was brought to Rizal Provincial Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Dellanza, Borja and Tampepe were recaptured while Jomar Cruz was able to elude arrest.

The escapees were detained in rape and drug-related cases, Pinero said.

Yesterday's jail break was the Oakwood this year.

The first was on Jan. 10 in the Catalunan City Jail where only one was recaptured out of the 16 escapees. The following day three inmates broke out of the Cebuano City Jail.

The BJMP is responsible for around 82,000 inmates all over the country with only 7,000 jail guards. Most prisons in the country are also severely crowded with a congestion rate of around 300 percent, according to the bureau.

POLICEMEN guard a bicycle whose windshield was shattered after it was commandeered by a group of inmates who had escaped from the Teresa District Jail in Rizal province. One prisoner was killed.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

2 LRT stations remain closed

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE ROOSEVELT and Balintawak stations of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1 remain closed almost two weeks after two persons collapsed at the elevated station.

According to the LRT Authority (LRTA) which operates the northbound train system, safety tests were still ongoing. It did not give a definite date for the reopening of the two stations.

The LRTA also said that it had already suspended the driver of one of the trains involved in the collision.

The driver, who was reportedly using his cell phone when the accident occurred, faces administrative charges.

The Balintawak and Roosevelt stations are the newest additions to Metro Manila rail LRT Line 1—part of the "closing the loop" project which aims to connect the system with the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) on Edsa.

"We are still conducting a lot of functional and safety inspections," LRTA Corporate Secretary Hernando Cabrera said in an interview yesterday.

He said while all repairs had been completed, the LRTA wanted to make sure nothing else was damaged that could cause safety problems.

HAIRLOSS?
Get professional help at Svenson.

Receding hairline ... falling and thinning hair ... dandruff and scalp disorders. Many resort to so-called remedies or over-the-counter products that give temporary results. The bad news: Self-diagnosis and incorrect treatments often cause hair condition to worsen and lead to hairloss. The good news: There's Svenson – the hair and scalp experts.
Svenson understands every hairloss problem is unique that is why treatment programs are personalized based on the outcome of the consultation. Their Trichologists help you determine the root causes of your hair problems and recommend appropriate treatments to correct the problem, stop hairloss and restore thicker, healthier hair. For hairloss solutions, Svenson is the answer!
Call now for a FREE private consultation today.
Svenson
CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

Wild animals found in QC after fire hits compound

By Julie M. Aurelio

SOME wild animals, including tigers and pythons, were found in a compound in Quezon City where a fire broke out yesterday.

Bravo Investigator SPO1 Reynaldo Caballar said fire tigers, two pythons, four dogs, several cats, birds and fighting cocks were discovered in the property of Rolando Go on Gen. Luis Street in Barangay Sta. Cruz.

He added that six of the fighting cocks were killed in the fire while his Go's house at 251 a.m. yesterday.

It reached the second alarm before it was put out several minutes later.

The Bureau of Fire Protection immediately informed the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) when they found the animals inside the compound.

Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim, PAWB director, said they heard out that the owner had a collection of wildlife registration although it was issued by the DENR Region 3 office.

She added that Go should have secured a permit from the DENR National Capital Region office first before the transfer of the animals to his house in Quezon City.

"I indeed the animals are registered in his name, then he still needs a permit to transport [them]," she said in a phone interview.

When the fire broke out yesterday, only Go's bodyguards and three families were staying in the compound as the owner was reportedly out of town, according to Caballar.

Investigators believed the fire could have started from a pile of wood which was accidentally set on fire.

Lim, meanwhile, said that the DENR would look into Go's possible liability under the law for hogging wild animals.

She added that Go could be charged with illegal possession of wild animals although she said that the heavy sentence will certifying the animals' papers.

MAKATI'S MARDI GRAS
Children dressed as tigers dance up a storm on Sunday's Carousel festival, Makati's equivalent of the Mardi Gras. The festival aims to promote the importance of caring for Mother Earth. ALEXANDER ALBERT

No end in sight in row between Caloocan mayor, vice mayor over sale of mall lot

By Kristine Felisse Marguesy

CALOOCAN Vice Mayor Edgar Erice has dismissed Mayor Enrico Echiverri's claims that he was undermined by the city council to order him a moratorium of registrar permit (MOA) with Ever Gotesco mall owner Jose Go in 2008.

The MOA stipulated that payments for the lot occupied by the mall amounted to P352 million for trade on that millennial for 30 months, with an initial down payment of P98 million. This was described by Erice as "grossly disadvantageous" to the city government, and become the basis for the filing of administrative and criminal charges against Echiverri in the Ombudsman in February.

In an e-mail sent to the local, Erice said that although Resolution No. 1375 s. 2006 was approved by the city council on Dec. 19, 2006, the MOA signed on Sept. 18, 2008 clearly stated it was an ordinance, and not a resolution, that had "mutilated" Echiverri to enter into the compromise agreement.

"They have stated in even a complete councilor knows the distinction between a 'resolution' and an 'ordinance' and is legal effect," the vice mayor said.

Erice, a lawyer, said that an ordinance deals with matters which are "more or less permanent in nature," while a resolution, "generally treats the sentiments of the city council and is temporary in nature."

Echiverri should have consulted the city's lawyer before signing the MOA in 2008, he added.

Further, the resolution, though approved, still "congressionally required" the ratification of the MOA in the event the mayor "enters into the matter with Gotesco Investments, Inc..."

"To date, the MOA is not yet ratified. It was not even submitted for revision of the 16th Council whose term of office ended in 2007, or by the 7th Council (2007-2010) or by the 8th Council (2010-2013)."

A review of the journals made at the time the resolution was approved also showed that the council's real intent was to reserve unpaid real property taxes Dmit. Go—which had amounted to P953 million from 1998 to 2008—and not the payment for the purchase price of the land, she's said added.

But, in a phone interview, Echiverri said the issue of whether it was a resolution or an ordinance was not important. What mattered was the intent behind the approval of the same, he said.

"I was entrusted by the resolution," Echiverri said.

Marcos would have succeeded if...

ON TARGET
RANDY DAVID

1,4983 many others of the "Baby Boomer" generation who are not leftist would have agreed with Gov. Bongbong Marcos that the country would have become another Singapore under his father had he added the line "if."

If his mother Imelda and his relatives were out of the picture, the country would have been "great again" as Ferdinand Marcos had promised after he was elected president in 1965.

If Marcos didn't set up his own oligarchy composed of families, relatives and his cronies, the country would have become another Singapore.

If he was only as honest and astute as Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew, this country would have become as prosperous and corruption-free as the city-state.

If Marcos wasn't only a kept pocket husband to his wife Imelda, things would have turned out differently.

The older Marcos' "New Society" movement was very good for the country if it had been pursued in earnest.

The first two years of martial law was life-changing and exhilarating for many Filipinos.

We lined up for rides, where, as before we scrambled and elbowed one another to get into buses and jeepneys.

We threw garbage in receptacles, whereas before we threw garbage everywhere.

We obeyed traffic rules because cops carried out laws to the letter, scared of being arrested by the marching military.

People could walk the streets unafraid of being held up or accosted by criminals.

The drug problem was practically nonexistent during the first few months after the declaration of martial law as the notorious drug lord, Lim Seng, was executed in public.

There were far fewer elusive cops than there are now in the first two years of martial law because policemen were afraid of the military.

Abusive military men were dealt with severely by military courts.

There was less corruption, if any, because government officials and employees were scared.

True, there was no freedom of the press and of speech as newspapers, radio and television stations were shut down, but there was little graft and corruption to report.

Foreign capitalists started coming to become martial law paved the way for a good business climate.

The first two years under martial law were the golden years of the Marcos administration.

But then, to use Marcos' own words, there was "backsliding to the old ways."

When a person suffers a relapse, he becomes sicker than before.

The same with Marcos' martial law regime when the country became a "basket case" among all the countries in Southeast Asia.

* * *

I was a columnist of the Manila Bulletin from 1982 up to 1987 when I transferred to the Inquirer.

When I wrote about abuses committed by military personnel and policemen in my column during that time, presidential aides from the malacañang would call me and/or Publisher Maximo Soliven and order that I "verify" from the military and police what I wrote about.

President Marcos himself ordered the entire complement of the Manila Police Station 6 in Ermita, from the commander to the lowest patrolman, after I wrote that most of the cops in the station were engaged in a protection racket.

From where I stood as a columnist, Marcos personally attended to reports of abuses committed by soldiers and cops.

That's why I was flabbergasted when Marcos' successor, Cory Aquino, called Bilibid inmates atrocities committed by soldiers and cops.

The Medellin massacre during The Cory's time was an example of soldiers and cops shooting down unarmed civilians.

Eco group warns LGUs about 'e-waste' disposal

By Jaymee T. Gamil

DESTROYED illegal gambling paraphernalia can still be harmful, especially to the environment.

Environmental groups are now calling for Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and other local government officials to be careful in disposing confiscated equipment. The Manila mayor recently led a team to destroy "illegal karera" (tri-sets as part of efforts to crack down on illegal gambling among the youth.

"We laud and support the anti-jueteng drive to stop addictive gambling activities that deflect much attention away from the school and family responsibilities. But we call the attention of Mayor Lim to the hazards of crushing or burning the confiscated gambling paraphernalia," said Aries Ray Alvarez, president of the EcoWaste Coalition, in a statement.

Information sheets from the group revealed that television sets contain hazardous chemicals such as brominated flame retardants, cadmium, lead, mercury and several other chemicals, which can damage the nervous, genito-intestinal and immune systems.

The group warned that smashing television screens would release toxic and glass chunks detrimental to public health.

The city Department of Public Services told the group that the broken TV's were brought to a sanitary landfill in Barangay Tanza in Navotas City.

But the coalition advised that "e-waste," or electronics waste, due to their toxic components, should not just be thrown away like any other garbage. "There are better ways to government servedwaste management, which should be resorted in controlled conditions that will minimize the toxic discharge into the environment," the group said.

Manny Calonzo of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, also a workers' group against the burning of polluted plastic found in "which releases toxic fumes, including cancer-causing pollutants."

METRO
Citizen's Call
Our line of defenders and distributors is ready on all stations.
Your station. Tell us all about it.

- Diversions on the road by a driver with waiting weighing (zero)?
- Did a signage make your day?
- Garbage dumped on your street unmade your day?
- Brown signage loomer on the street where you live?
- Are you up to arms against the demolition of an ancestral house?
- Away by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact in your community?
- Hit street in protection?
- Fed up with moving and fearing neighbors?

0918-8965566

P.S.

INQUIRER

Baby with liver disease needs financial help

BABY Isaba Cassidy Jimenez, who is just nine months old, has been diagnosed with biliary atresia, a rare life-threatening disease which damages the liver and bile ducts.

Her doctors have recommended that she undergo a liver transplant but the procedure would cost P3 million, an amount her family cannot shoulder.

Her father, Kembay Jimenez, is asking for prayers for Baby Isaba as well as financial help.

He can be contacted at 0915-240 3305 or 09061126211. Funds may also be sent to share_isabajimenez.com or bpi-mcc@yahoo.com.ph.

Donations can be routed through Bembay's bank account with BOC Savings Bank. The account number is 1002 09011-1.

BABY ISABA JIMENEZ

METRO BRIEFS

2 NCRPO cops probed for extortion

Two Makati Police has placed two members of National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) under investigation after they were accused of extortion by motorists, Senior Supt. Rodolfo Bartolata, city police chief, declined to name the police officers, who were assigned with the NCRPO's Regional Action Group, pending the results of their investigations. One of the policemen used to be a member of the Makati City Public Safety Administration Brigade before he joined the service. He was Filipino traffic violation tickets in exchange for money. "There were text messages from concerned motorists that these men were allegedly engaged in extortion. We did not admit there is the act but they could address charges for dereliction of authority because they were apparently slandering that they're members of the Makati Police. They were apparently slandering that they're members of the Makati Police. They were in business being in the area," Bartolata said. Tina G. Santos

Manila opposes mining in Palawan

MANILA has taken a stand against mining in Palawan. In a resolution passed last week by the city council, residents were urged to join a 10 million signature campaign to stop mining in Palawan, a move initiated by the environment group Save Palawan Movement (SPM). Dr. Reginald Mendoza, SPM's national director, said the campaign aims to "save Palawan from irresponsible mining." "There is a need to bring the Palawan situation to the fore of national consciousness. Manila, as the country's premier city, should take immediate action," the resolution penned by Councilors Dr. Bagani Namnam Lim and Sanggunniang Kabataan representative Yvonne Ann Denise Cardin said. The councilors said that mining activities in the province, which have "an obvious effect on the environment," contradict Republic Act No. 7611 or the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act, which upholds the preservation of natural resources and indigenous communities. Supporting also was the resolution came about as Manila councilors headed Sen. Edgardo Angara's call for local and national legislators "to pass a law or more environmental laws." "We have destroyed much of our environment and then, we have failed (in) our duties as caretakers of our own resources. But we can start anew if we introduce right laws supporting the conservation of Palawan," Lim told reporters in an interview. In the signature campaign web site— on Savepalawan.com —the Save the Palawan Movement calls the province "the Philippines' last ecological frontier," citing that Palawan hosts "40 percent of the [country's] remaining mangrove areas, 28 percent of our coral reefs, at least 11 key biodiversity areas, two Unesco World Heritage sites and eight declared protected areas." The coalition began the signature campaign after the killing of local journalist and environmental advocate Gerry Ortega. Jaymee T. Gamil

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ganzon

Oman protesters block roads; 6 die after clashes with police

SOHAR, Oman—Omani protesters demanding political reforms blocked roads to a main export port and refinery on Monday and a doctor said the death toll from clashes with police in the Gulf Arab sultanate had risen to six.

Hundreds of protesters blocked the entrance to the industrial area of the northern coastal town of Sohar, which includes a port, refinery and aluminum factory. They pushed back four army vehicles that had been observing the scene.

"We want to see the benefit of our oil wealth distributed evenly to the population," one protester yelled over a loudhailer near the port. "We want to see a redistribution of expatriates in Oman to more jobs can be created for Omanis."

The unrest in Sohar, Oman's main industrial center, was a rare outbreak of discontent in the normally sleepy sultanate ruled by Sultan Qaboos bin Said for four decades, and follows a wave of pro-democracy protests across the Arab world.

Oman's government, trying to calm tensions, promised on Sunday to create many jobs and give benefits to job-seekers.

A state representative in Sohar was burning on Monday after being hosted aristocrats said. Protesters stormed the town's police station on Sunday to try to free detainees before burning it. They had also set two more offices ablaze.

As well as those demonstrations outside the industrial area, hundreds more were at the scene

Omani protesters throw stones during clashes and refuse to disperse at the Sohar roundabout monument during a demonstration in Sohar, more than 200 kilometers northwest of Muscat, on Feb. 26 —AFP

to Oman's ruling Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who has been in power since 1970.

Qaboos has responded to the unrest by promising to create 50,000 jobs in the public and private sectors, a monthly allowance for unemployed citizens and a two-year freeze on prices of basic foodstuffs.

Oman's economy is relatively small and dependent on oil and gas revenues, which account for about 40 percent of gross domestic product. Its proven oil reserves are expected to run out in about 15 years.

Oman has been largely untouched by the unrest that has swept the Middle East and North Africa, but there have been small protests in the capital, Muscat, and in Sohar, Oman's second-largest city.

Sohar is home to a huge industrial complex that includes a refinery, an aluminum smelter and a port. Protesters have blocked roads leading to the complex, and on Sunday they attacked police vehicles and set fire to a police station.

Witnesses said police fired tear gas to disperse the crowds, and that some protesters threw stones in response. Police also fired tear gas on Monday to disperse protesters who had gathered at a roundabout near the industrial complex.

Protesters have also demanded the removal of some government ministers, including Oil Minister Mohammed bin Hamad al-Rumhy, who has been in the post since 1994. Protesters have also called for the creation of elected municipal councils with greater powers.

Oman's ruling Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who has been in power since 1970, has responded to the unrest by promising to create 50,000 jobs in the public and private sectors, a monthly allowance for unemployed citizens and a two-year freeze on prices of basic foodstuffs.

Oman's economy is relatively small and dependent on oil and gas revenues, which account for about 40 percent of gross domestic product. Its proven oil reserves are expected to run out in about 15 years.

Oman has been largely untouched by the unrest that has swept the Middle East and North Africa, but there have been small protests in the capital, Muscat, and in Sohar, Oman's second-largest city.

Sohar is home to a huge industrial complex that includes a refinery, an aluminum smelter and a port. Protesters have blocked roads leading to the complex, and on Sunday they attacked police vehicles and set fire to a police station.

Witnesses said police fired tear gas to disperse the crowds, and that some protesters threw stones in response. Police also fired tear gas on Monday to disperse protesters who had gathered at a roundabout near the industrial complex.

Protesters have also demanded the removal of some government ministers, including Oil Minister Mohammed bin Hamad al-Rumhy, who has been in the post since 1994. Protesters have also called for the creation of elected municipal councils with greater powers.

Tunisia PM resigns after weekend of violence

MANAMA, Bahrain—Tunisia's prime minister, a holdover from the government that was toppled last month, resigned Sunday after a weekend of violent protests that left five people dead in the capital, Tunis.

The prime minister, Mohamed Ghannouchi, had been under increasing pressure to step down from protesters who felt that he was tainted by his links to the old government.

"My resignation will provide a better atmosphere for the success," Ghannouchi said on state television. "My resignation is in the service of the country."

Hours later, Ghannouchi's interim president, Fouad Mebazaa, named a former government minister, Beji Caid Essebsi, as the country's new prime minister. He will succeed Tunisian strongman Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, an event that became a symbol for optimism in neighboring Arab countries. Tunisia is also struggling to manage an influx of thousands of refugees from neighboring Libya, where rebels inspired by the Tunisians are seeking to overthrow the Libyan leader, Moammar Gadhafi.

GHANNOUCHI

It was unclear whether Ghannouchi's resignation would soothe the various groups in Tunisia that have taken to the streets to protest years.

A person on Sunday turned violent when security forces used warning knives and stones attacked the Interior Ministry building, according to TAP.

The Interior Ministry described the violence as "organized criminal acts." Protesters set fire to several police vehicles, smashed windows and confronted security officers, according to the news agency.

Five protesters were killed and 16 security officers were injured, it said.

One witness described a peaceful protest that degenerated into a riot when a separate protest group arrived.

After the violence, the army banned gatherings and traffic from the streets in central Tunis where the Interior Ministry is based, an order that caused thunder to ring.

The military's order did not appear to have enhanced the desired effect. —New York Times News Service

Al-Qaida sees history fly by

By Ivan Shaw

FOR NEARLY two decades, the leaders of al-Qaeda have denounced the Arab world's dictators as heretics and puppets of the West and called for their downfall. Now people in country after country have risen to topple their leaders—and al-Qaeda has played absolutely no role.

In fact, the twelve opposition movements that have appeared so suddenly and proved so powerful have shunned the two central tenets of the al-Qaeda creed: bloodthirsty violence and religious fundamentalism. The declared enemies have cared have defied, openly, fronted Islam as an all-embracing and embraced democracy, rebuffs to assertions by Osama bin Laden and his followers.

As for al-Qaida—and perhaps no less for American policymakers built around the threat it poses—the democratic revolutions that have gripped the world's attention are a cross-roads. Will the battered and weakened movement be able to reinvent? Or will it find a way to exploit the chaos produced by political upheaval and the disappointment that will inevitably follow hopes now stoked to high?

Bin Laden's opposition on terrorism and the Middle East, though not all, the past few weeks have the rankings of an unveiled disorder for al-Qaida, making the jihadists look like ineffectual bystanders to historic events offering young Muslims an appealing alternative to terrorism.

"In fact—and I emphasize in fact—the score card looks pretty terrible for al-Qaida," said Paul R. Pillar, today a retired terrorism analyst for the Middle East for nearly three decades at the CIA and a now at Georgetown University. "Democracy is bad news for terrorists. The more peaceful democratic people have to express their views, the less appeal terrorism has. And, by the way, there's no evidence."

If the terrorists network's leaders hope to ride the momentum, they have been slow off the mark. Bin Laden has been silent. His Egyptian deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, has issued three scrolling statements from an undisclosed hideout in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region that seemed oddly out of touch with the times, and nothing the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, whose government detained and tortured Zawahiri in the 1980s.

"Knocking off Mubarak has been Zawahiri's goal for more than 20 years, and he was unable to achieve it," said Bruce Riedman, a terrorism expert at the New America Foundation. "Now a nonviolent, secular, pro-democracy movement got rid of him in a matter of weeks. It's a major problem for al-Qaida."

The Arab revolutions, of course, remain very much a work in progress, as the Libyan leader, Moammar Gadhafi, enters a bloody defense of Tripoli and Yemen's president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, negotiates to flee to power. The breakdown of order could create havens for terrorists, as it did for Lashkar-e-Taiba in Gadhafi and Saleh have prevented, stunning the gratitude of the American government.

"There's an operational advantage to be millionaire in any place where law enforcement and domestic intelligence are weakened," said Steven Simon, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and coauthor of "The Age of Sacred Terror." But over all, he said, developments in the Arab countries are to strategic detriment to jihadists.

"These uprisings have shown that the new generation is not terribly interested in al-Qaida's ideology," Simon said. He called the Zawahiri statements "tedious, if not pathetic."

Michael Scheuer, author of a new biography of bin Laden and head of the CIA's bin Laden unit in the late 1990s, says he believes that Americans, including many experts, have wildly misjudged the significance by focusing on the secular, English-speaking, Westernized protesters calling for a democratic future for their countries. Thousands of Islamists have been released from prisons in Egypt alone, and the success of al-Qaida's enemy Mubarak, will help revitalize every major of Islamists, including that of al-Qaeda's main allies, he said.

"The future of an organization is not just leadership, but tactics and strategy and opportunities," Scheuer said. —New York Times News Service

Gunmen attack home of Congo president

KAISOR, Kasai—Unidentified gunmen attacked the home of Congo's president on Sunday afternoon, setting off a short but fierce firefight that killed at least six people, Congolese officials said.

The motive for the attack was not clear and the assailants were repulsed several hundred yards from the president's house, said Lambert Mende, interior minister for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"We are thinking it might be some kind of ethnic terrorism," Mende said. "I don't think it was a coup attempt because nobody has claimed it. I think it was more to frighten people."

According to Mende, a group of heavily armed attackers clashed with security guards around 2 p.m. at a checkpoint near the residence of President Joseph Kabila. Mende said four people were killed in the gunfight, three of the attackers and one police officer.

PRESIDENT of the Democratic Republic of Congo Joseph Kabila at a yearly cardiovascular rally in Kinshasa. —AFP

Congo is no stranger to instability or random violence. For the past 15 years, various parts of the country have been engulfed in civil war or insurrection, and gun battles have broken out on the streets of Kinshasa before. Most of the violence tends to be in the eastern provinces, where several armed groups fight one another over Congo's mineral riches, including gold, copper, tin ore and diamonds.

Civilians, especially women, are often the victims, and HIV officials call rape in Congo "the rape capital of the world" because hundreds of thousands of women have been raped there in recent years.

Kabila won a major election in 2006 and then took office the year but his grip on most of the country, which is thickly forested and the size of Western Europe is considered weak. In early February, gunmen attacked the airport in Lubumbashi, a town in southeastern Congo, then had been brought to be relatively stable. The fighting did not last long but caused to reveal that security there was spotty as well.

On Sunday, Mende said there was no connection between that attack and the one on the presidential house, calling the Lubumbashi attack a "non-event" and the results of a local dispute.

—New York Times News Service

Baby first NZ quake victim laid to rest

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand—The baby boy who is the youngest known victim of New Zealand's earthquake disaster was to be laid to rest, given a farewell Monday by grieving relatives who clutched stuffed toys and clasped his tiny coffin in a tender hug.

Baxter Crawford, 5 months old, was sleeping in his home in the southern city of Christchurch when he was hit and mortally injured by masonry shaken loose by the quake that hit with brutal force last Tuesday, the family said. He died in a hospital.

Authorities have named just eight victims of the disaster—Crawford and another infant among them—and say they are struggling to identify many of the 140 other bodies pulled from the rubble because of the ferocity of their injuries.

The official death toll from the quake rose to 149 on Monday after another body was found, and police fear it will be far more. Of other people who are unaccounted for, police Supt. David Cliff said.

Among the dead so missing are dozens of foreign students, mostly Japanese and Chinese, who were in central Christchurch to attend classes in office buildings that collapsed with up 120 people inside. Up to 22 other people may be buried in rubble of Christchurch Cathedral, most of them believed to be tourists climbing the bell tower for its panoramic views of the south-east New Zealand city.

Stormlight relatives, including many who flew in from overseas last week, met with officials at a convention center in search for news on the identification process. "The waiting is the agonizing part," Cliff said.

The multinational team of more than 600 rescuers scrambling through wrecked buildings in search of survivors ended the day late last pulled a survivor from the rubble at mid-afternoon Wednesday, making it six days without finding anyone alive. AP

Sarkozy removes foreign minister

PARIS—In a hastily scheduled speech to the nation, President Nicolas Sarkozy announced Sunday evening that he had come more unhurried on cutting to stop the foreign minister, Michele Alliot-Marie, after only three months in office and replacing her with Alain Juppe, the defense minister and a former prime minister of the country.

Alliot-Marie had been a focus of controversy after asking a vacation to Tunisia as antigovernment demonstrations were under way there, and raised doubts as to her friendly business dealings in the country.

Sarkozy's seven minister wife, used speech was billed as an address on international affairs

ALLIOT-MARIE

meeting to discuss how to help new democracies and to announce that a panel on immigration, to deal with flares fleeing uncertainty and violence in North Africa.

Sarkozy announced only days shifts in the French cabinet. Gerard Longuet, 66, the head of Sarkozy's Union for a Popular Movement in the French Senate, will replace Alliot-Marie. Claude Gueant, a Sarkozy intimate, becomes interior minister. —New York Times News Service

INQUIRER

MISSION: FIND GUYITO!

JOIN THE SPECIAL MISSION TO SEARCH FOR INQUIRER'S GUYITO IN THE GUYITO WILD HUNT 2011 TEXT + COUPON PROMO!

GET A CHANCE TO WIN **P25,000** CASH OR ANY OF THESE COOL PRIZES.

BIGGER! BETTER!* NOW ON ITS 4TH YEAR!

JOIN THE HUNT

TO REGISTER

Text GUYITO<space>REG<space>NAME/AGE/GENDER/COMPLETE ADDRESS send 4467
eg. GUYITO REG MARK VARGAS/22/M/Unit 209 Lotus Bldg. San Vicente St., Makati City send 4467

TO SEND ENTRIES

GUYITO<space>GUYITO CODE send 4467
eg. GUYITO ABC123 send 4467

(Pre-registration is required.)

Cut and keep the Guyito coupon published daily in the Inquirer.

Promo Mechanics

1. This promo is open to all Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet readers nationwide.
2. Promo period is from January 10 to April 10, 2011.
3. Find the Guyito Wild Hunt coupon which may be found in different sections of the Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet. Each Guyito coupon to be printed daily will have a Guyito code.
4. Participants may submit the Guyito code to earn promo entries via text/SMS.
5. One (1) Guyito Wild Hunt coupon may be found daily on Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet from Monday to Sunday.
6. To register for the promo via SMS, participants need to text the required information to 4467 following the syntax below. They will then receive a confirmation message from Inquirer acknowledging their mobile phone number's registration to the promo.
   Syntax: **GUYITO<space>REG<space>NAME/AGE/GENDER/COMPLETE ADDRESS send 4467**
   Example: **GUYITO REG MARK VARGAS/22/M/Unit 209 Lotus Bldg. San Vicente St., Makati City send 4467**
   Inquirer Confirmation SMS Message/Reply: **"You are now registered to the Guyito Wild Hunt 2011 Promo. You may earn your promo entries by texting GUYITO<space>UNIQUE CODE to 4467. Promo runs from January 10 to April 10, 2011. Per GTI/ACR/Permit # 6291 Series of 2011. See print ads for details. Standard text messaging fee of P2.50/text applies."**
7. To earn an entry via SMS/text: Once the participant finds a Guyito coupon in the Inquirer broadsheet, he/she can send in the following information to 4467 in the correct format and sequence as shown below:
   Syntax: **GUYITO<space>GUYITO CODE send 4467**
   Example: **GUYITO ABC123 send 4467**
   Inquirer Confirmation SMS Message/Reply: **"Thank you for sending in your promo raffle entry. Be sure to cut out the Guyito coupon with the corresponding unique code from the Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet and keep it as your proof of entry. Promo runs from January 10 to April 10, 2011. Per GTI/ACR/Permit # 6291 Series of 2011. See print ads for details. Text messaging fee of P2.50/text applies."**
8. All information sent will be kept confidential and will be used solely for this promo's service.
9. Registration to the promo is only once and free of charge. Sending of entry via text/SMS is P2.50/message.
10. If a registered participant/mobile number can only earn up to five (5) entries per unique Guyito code. Any additional attempt at sending an entry using the same code will not be recognized and accepted for the promo.
11. Entries using any of the unique Guyito codes, regardless of publication date of the codes, shall be valid during the entire promo period.
12. Guyito coupons with Guyito codes used to earn raffle entries must be cut out and kept to be shown as proof of purchase in the event that the participant's entry is chosen in the draw. Winners who are not able to present the Guyito coupon with the corresponding code will be disqualified.
13. Draws will be held at 3:00pm on the following dates: 1st Draw on Mar. 1, 2011 and 2nd Draw on March 29, 2011. Grand draw is on April 28, 2011.
14. Entries will be drawn via electronic raffle.
15. The promo raffle prizes are as follows:
    1st Draw (March 1, 2011)
    - Five (5) winners of Php 20,000 each.
    - Two (2) winners of Suzuki Raider J Motorcycle

    2nd Draw (March 29, 2011)
    - Five (5) winners of Php 20,000 each.
    - Two (2) winners of Suzuki Thunder 125 Motorcycle

    Grand Draw (April 28, 2011)
    - One (1) winner of one (1) unit of Mitsubishi Montero Sports GLX 2WD 4x4
    - Five (5) winners of Php 25,000 each.
    - Two (2) winners of Suzuki Skydrive 125 Motorcycle.
16. Twenty percent (20%) tax for prizes exceeding P10,000 shall be shouldered by the winners.
17. The 3-year LTO registration, insurance, other accessories will be for the account of the winner.
18. All winners will be notified via registered mail.
19. All non-winning entries will automatically be included in the succeeding draws.
20. A participant can only win once per draw. If a participant's name gets drawn more than once, the prize of higher value will be given.
21. Cut-off date for the 1st draw is on February 15, 2011 at 3:00 pm.
22. Cut-off date for the 2nd draw is on March 15, 2011 at 3:00 pm.
23. Cut-off date for the Grand draw is on April 15, 2011 at 3:00 pm.
24. All draws will be held at the Inquirer Main office (PSI Bldg. 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City) to be facilitated by Inquirer executives in the presence of DTI representatives.
25. The complete list of all winners will be published two (2) weeks after each draw date in the Philippine Daily Inquirer broadsheet.
26. All winners below eighteen (18) years of age need to have their parent/s or legal guardian with them to claim their prize. Both the winner and parent/guardian should present valid identification. The latter should also present proof that s/he is the legal guardian of the winner.
27. Prizes are non-transferable but not convertible to cash.
28. Winners from Metro Manila may claim their prize at Marketing Department
    Philippine Daily Inquirer 1098 PSI Building Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City
    Winners residing outside Metro Manila may claim their prize at the nearest Inquirer Bureau indicated in the registered mail.
29. All winners must present the following to an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative:
    a. Two (2) valid IDs with complete name, picture and correct address. Photocopies of any of the two documents (driver's license, employment/school ID, SSS ID, and/or passport) should be submitted upon claiming of prize.
    b. The registered mail that the Philippine Daily Inquirer will send for the raffle prize winner.
    c. Proxy's valid identification and authorization letter from the winner (if prize is claimed through proxy).
    d. Guyito coupon with the corresponding winning code.
    e. The SIM card where the entry was made:
       i. If the name of the subscriber indicated in the broadsheet is different from the postpaid subscriber or different from the name of the sender of the winning entry of the Promo, the sender of the winning entry of the Promo will be qualified to receive the prize if he submits an affidavit from the postpaid subscriber certifying that the postpaid subscriber has authorized the winner to use his postpaid SIM card to join the Promo and that he waives his right to the prize in favor of the winner.
       ii. If the drawn postpaid SIM card number corresponds to a subscription of a company, then the sender of the winning entry of the Promo will be qualified to receive the prize if he submits an affidavit from the duly authorized representative of the company owning the postpaid SIM card certifying that the company has authorized the sender of the winning entry to join the Promo and that the company is waiving its right to claim the prize won.

IMPORTANT: Failure to submit any of the required proof and documentation is a ground for disqualification.

1. For prepaid subscribers, account should be active and should have been properly decremented for all transactions.
2. Smart shall consider the holder of a prepaid SIM card as the owner of the Smart prepaid SIM card.
3. For post-paid subscribers, account should have no outstanding balances on the date of redemption.

30. All prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of registered mail from an Authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative.
31. All unclaimed prizes after the said date shall be forfeited in favor of the Inquirer with prior DTI approval.
32. All employees of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, its sister companies, advertising agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not eligible to join the promo.

SUZUKI

MITSUBISHI MOTORS Drivesmarth

*Compared to past Guyito Wild Hunt promos

Subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Call (02) 896-6000.

For DTI-NCR Permit No. 6291 Series of 2011
ASC Ref. No.: PDS2AD1211-01

IN THIS ISSUE
- **BDO net profit surged** 46% to all-time high P8.8B in 2010 /B2

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Cornie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

IN THIS ISSUE
- **Meralco 2010 income** surges by 74% /B3
- **Wood shortage** seen likely /B6

PH is 3rd most optimistic economy

P-Noy regime boosts business confidence

By Dexter L. Lora

STILL RIDING the euphoria that followed President Aquino's election victory last year, Filipino businessmen now count themselves as among the most optimistic in the world, according to a recent worldwide survey.

More specifically, the results of the annual Grant Thornton International Business Report showed that Filipino business leaders were most exalted (third in the world in terms of optimism) with 67 percent of businessmen seeing thirty-seven more confident about business prospects for 2011.

Local businessmen came in just behind their peers from Chile (95-percent optimism) and India (70 percent), and ahead of those in Brazil (58 percent).

The 2011 conducted locally by the

PRIMACE Secretary Cesar Purisima answers queries during the 2011 Philippine Development Forum, as World Bank country director for the Philippines Bert Hofman looks on. AARON FAVILA

World Bank eyes more loans, grants to Philippines

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE WORLD Bank has expressed its desire to better help in the economic development agenda of the Aquino administration by extending more loans to the Philippines.

"The bank has been scrutinizing about $600 million worth of loans and grants to the Philippines a year, but World Bank country director Bert Hofman said the multilateral agency was considering to raise the amount to help fund more of the government's infrastructure projects.

"We are looking at increasing the amount," Hofman said in a briefing Saturday morning following the Philippine Development Forum (PDF) held at the Jodi's Hotel in Pasay City. He noted, however, that the board of the World Bank has yet to approve the amount of increase.

The World Bank is one of the Philippines' biggest sources of official development assistance (ODA), which comes either in the form of a grant or low-interest rate loans that are used to fund infrastructure projects and social services.

During the PDF, President Aquino and members of his economic team presented the government's development agenda. The latter—which was attended by representatives from foreign creditors like the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and leading institutions of foreign governments—was meant to solicit funding and technical support for the government's priority projects and programs for the medium term.

WORLD B1

NDC to help raise funding for PPP projects

ATTENTION:
CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISERS

Publish a picture of your:
- pets for sale
- products for sale
- house for sale
- aparment for rent

We guarantee VALUE FOR YOUR MONEY and GREATER MILEAGE because of the EXTENSIVE MARKET COVERAGE and SCOPE we offer.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

BDO net profit surged 46% to all-time high P8.8B in '10

Strong contribution from lending, treasury units

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S biggest lender Banco De Oro Unibank grew its net profit last year by 46 percent to P8.8 billion, a record high for the bank owned by tycoon Henry Sy, as a robust economic environment expanded earnings from lending, treasury and fee-based businesses.

BDO's results included the P1.6-billion mark-to-treasuries, exceeded the P6.1-billion net profit targeted for 2010. The reconciliation translated to a return on average common equity of 11.7 percent, higher than the 10.4 percent in 2009.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, BDO attributed its strong performance to "a more diversified and sustainable earnings stream from its core banking, deposit-taking and service businesses."

Gross customer loans expanded 15 percent to P641.5 billion with blue-growth accounts 43 business segments. Total deposits, meanwhile, rose 12 percent to P782.6 billion.

A bigger earning asset base coupled with lower funding costs resulted in a 12-percent increase in net interest income to P34.2 billion. The growth in net interest income was not disclosed but based on industry-wide trend, the low interest rate regime resulted in hefty margin gains for banks last year.

On the other hand, the bank's fee-based service income hit P10.4 billion, which BDO attributed to strong contributions from trust, private banking, remittance, transaction banking, insurance, investment banking and card units.

Its asset quality ratio could be continued efforts to prudently manage the balance sheet to protect it through economic cycles. It boosted provisions to P6.7 billion and reduced nonperforming loan (NPL) coverage to 92 percent from 98 percent a year ago, despite the decline in the gross NPL ratio to 4.7 percent from the previous year's 5 percent.

The bank ended 2010 with a record subsequent ratio of 14 percent, well above the current regulatory minimum of 10 percent.

"Following its solid financial performance in 2010, the bank hopes to build on its gains to pursue further growth opportunities to extract additional value," BDO said in the disclosure.

BDO shares were up 0.86 percent at P48.99 yesterday, giving the bank a market capitalization of P121.34 billion.

Selective-buy stock list

MARKET RIDER

Dex Sioncerra

IF YOU will recall, the market had always failed to end on a positive close until last week. It ended +0.28 points higher on Friday to 3,757.94. On like-to-like, though, the market actually fell 114.20 points, again.

But the market's performance last Friday—which was certainly not that extraordinary—just broke the market's weekly losing character that had gone on for so long. This positive close could spur on the weight to bring gains which I mentioned in my last column that may bring about a new-term market rebound that should justify the "selective buy" strategy.

Select stocks

Among those in the selective-buy list is Dalies Hilong Corp. (HIL). The current market price of PL 16.5/4.20 to P4.24 is still considered reasonable based on its established growth and valuation potential.

If you missed the news, the board of directors of PL last Wednesday (Mar. 23) approved the declaration of cash dividends amounting to P6.38 a share. This is equivalent to 25 percent of core earnings amounting to P537 million, wherein HIL's "one-time income" had increased 224 percent to P4.35 billion from a total revenue equivalent to P1.339 billion.

Dividend was fixed on March 7, 2011, the record date on March 28, 2011, and the payment date on April 5, 2011. Incidentally, the board also declared that the annual stockholders' meeting of PL will be on June 29, 2011. The meeting will be held at 2:30 in the afternoon at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Ayala Center, Makati City. For purposes of the stockholders' meeting, only stockholders as of March 15, 2011 will be entitled to vote. In like manner, the stock transfer book will be closed from March 16 to 23, 2011.

The deadline for nominations for directors, if you are interested in running for such position, will be on March 16, 2011.

Two main factors contributed to the sterling performance of PL: Higher coal-production output and fa-

(From page B1)

vorable market prices.

During a home-on-PSE held last November, the government-owned firm announced the list of public infrastructure projects that would be offered for private sector investment. The projects are estimated to cost around P107 billion. These included the MRT/LRT expansion project, MRT Line 2 East extension; Ninoy Aquino International Airport; Clark International Airport; Mactan-Cebu International Airport; Subic Airport; Bicol Expressway Phase II; Cavite-Laguna Expressway Phase 1; and the upgrading of several bulk water for Metro Manila.

Michelle C. Rosca

NDC . . .

(From page B1)

and related to the private investor.

During a home-on-PPP held last November, the government-owned firm announced the list of public infrastructure projects that would be offered for private sector investment. The projects are estimated to cost around P107 billion. These included the MRT/LRT expansion project; MRT Line 2 East extension; Ninoy Aquino International Airport; Clark International Airport; Mactan-Cebu International Airport; Subic Airport; Bicol Expressway Phase II; Cavite-Laguna Expressway Phase 1; and the upgrading of several bulk water for Metro Manila.

Michelle C. Rosca

World Bank . . .

(From page B1)

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said the government highlighted the need to support the government's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program during the IFC.

Under the PPP, the government and/or private firms to invest in public infrastructure projects. The objective is to help develop the country's infrastructure despite the government's budget constraints.

Economic managers said the support of foreign lenders to the PPP was important as they would provide loans to potential private sector investors.

Purisima said that besides the World Bank, other foreign lenders expressed willingness to extend more loans to the Philippines to support the PPP and other development projects of the Aquino administration.

Secondary Roads and Streets, to build a hotel and entertainment complex in the Bagong Sinong Filipino Entertainment City in Bocaue.

Also, based on its prospectus, the market price of BMC may already be at its true fundamental value or recovery, in the meantime.

Making the same proposition to the foregoing stocks are: shorty Equity Value (EVI, JMIC) at P77/c-P1.40/P1.13 a share; SM Investments Corp. (SMC) at P490.0-P490/a share; Manila Water Co. Inc. (MWC) at P37 to P37.40 a share; Benguet Mining Corp. (BCC) at P97.20 to P100.70 a share; and San Miguel Corp. (SMC) at P106.00 to P109.50 a share.

Bottom-line spin

Surprisingly, these stocks with stable fundamental growth and value potential did not receive as much spoils of realization as the selective buy list on speculative stocks from a couple of my investment columns earlier.

It seems that some old hunger for the market that happened in 2009, all the way up to 2,083.18-peak price, then shot up from 50 to more than 1,000 percent. In fact, the market still gets fever-pitched by the hyper-speculative operations in stocks in the first one and half months of the current year—something that can happen again in the very near term, I believe.

And if you want me to oblige you with one more stock-recommendation in the television show, I'll give you a speculative price performance. I have one more for you—a company I've commented on that date.

This is TBC Steel Corp. (T), the listed co. in subsiding storyline. It may just have what it takes to still open up capacity-wise price runway. Don't ask me for price targets, just wrap your hands for protection and be quiet. In retort. Remember "Making money in stock trading does not mean knowing the secrets of forecasting future prices."

You may reach the Market Rider at marketrider@inquirer.com.ph or visit www.kapitalist.com

PH is 3rd most . . .

(From page B1)

groups, Affiliate Policyholders & Associates, in an international survey of the countries that are said to have persistently held frontiers.

"Some may dismiss this rosy outlook of Filipino executives as simply as keeping with the Filipino's positive thinking," said PAA's managing partner and CEO Marcia Esguerra.

"This year, however, such optimism is backed by the 7.3-percent real GDP [gross domestic product] growth in 2010, the second highest growth rate. Some growth rates we have ever experienced, so I would say our optimism is well-founded."

The IBM results echoed similar findings released recently by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) on business and consumer confidence. Overall high confidence levels since the entry of the new administration existed.

The Makati Business Club, the group that brings together the country's biggest businesses, also opened such like findings.

"We have very good optimism," MBC executive director Peter Perfecto said, adding that the key now was to translate this confidence into concrete gains for the benefit of the broader population.

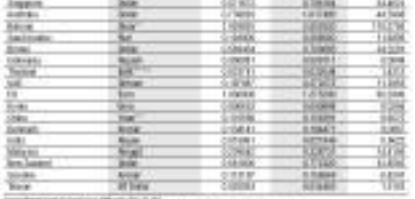
"We believe that the government can sustain the growth momentum of 2010, if the [Public-Private Partnership] program begins rolling out this year," he said. "I understand that they are committed to rolling out at least 10 projects this year. This will be significant."

Since the Philippines began participating in 2006, optimism among local business leaders has always reached an average of 70 percent. The optimism dropped from a high of 95 percent in 2008 to 60 percent in the global financial crisis, PAA said in a statement.

The following year, confidence level surged by 80 percent as business leaders cautiously looked forward to a rebound, it added.

Survey respondents were also asked about their business expectations for this year.

Philippine businessmen reported improved confidence in the areas of employment, revenues, selling prices, exports, profitability, investments in new buildings, investment in machinery and research and development.



Meralco 2010 income surges by 74%

By Amy R. Borres

MANILA ELECTRIC Co., the country's biggest power distributor, posted a 74 percent surge in its consolidated core net income to P12.2 billion in 2010, due largely to an "unprecedented" increase in the volume of energy sold last year.

In a briefing yesterday, Meralco attributed the unaudited core net income—which excluded one-time gains—to the "unprecedented" increase in the volume of energy sold last year.

"Higher load and investment volumes, better margins, hefty trading gains and lower fixed cost projections are this year's earnings growth," MERALCO executive vice president and chief finance officer Cesar Baltazar said yesterday in a statement.

MERALCO grew its base portfolio last year by 1.6 percent to P64.77 billion, and its trading and investment securities by 14 percent to P68 billion.

This good volume expansion, along with the 11-percent improvement in margins, boosted the bank's current income by 11 percent, to P7.83 billion, Baltazar said.

The bank's noninterest income also went up by 32 percent, to P2.22 billion, bolstered by a substantial increase in trading gains.

Baltazar said the steady growth of the bank's deposits enabled the expansion of loans and investments, likewise providing the liquidity for the increase in trading activities during the year. MERALCO's deposits reached P146.57 billion at the end of 2010, up by 16 percent.

With two-thirds of the deposit growth coming in the form of low-cost current and savings accounts, the bank was able to maintain its net interest margin at 3.4 percent, the same level as in 2009.

Meralco officials also reported that the combined effect of the 3 percent increase in the number of billed customers to 4.6 million and the steadily improving economy helped to influence higher volumes, resulting in a record 36,000 gigawatt hours for the year.

Consolidated revenues, of which electricity sales accounted for 87 percent, also rose by 22 percent to P240.3 billion as of end-December 2010.

Peak demand for power averaged at 5,374 megawatts last year, much higher than the 4,918 MW recorded in 2009.

Total energy sold for 2010 was 28,247 gigawatt hours, up by a record 10 percent. Sales to industrial customers rose by 16 percent to 8,324 GWh.

The incremental from the 2009 performance of Meralco's industrial customers can be attributed to the increased consumption, particularly by manufacturers of semiconductors, electronics, food and plastic products.

Energy sold to commercial customers increased by 8 percent to 11,309 GWh, while sales to residential customers rose slightly by 7 percent to 9,560 GWh.

Meralco president and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan admitted, however, that expectations for 2011 would have to be tempered, reminding the "stellar performance" last year.

"While expectations need to be tempered, we remain bullish about the prevailing opportunities—one to carry into power generation, notably with a peaking plant and subsequently into baseload and coal-fueled plants and into expanded distribution service investments outside our franchise, operating so-called 'businesses, specifically specialty engineering and railway (among others)," Pangilinan explained.

"The Meralco franchise area becomes 35 percent of the country's GDP (gross domestic product). With a very liquid (real estate) market, we will grow our distribution business with further investments in capital projects," he added.

BIOMETRIC Time Recorders
P 7,800
INFINITE

UCPB net profit increased by 44% to ₱2.4B in 2010

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNITED COCONUT Planters Bank grew its 2010 net profit by 44 percent to P2.4 billion as its lending business and trading gains jumped alongside a strong economic environment and record low interest rates last year.

"Higher loan and investment volumes, better margins, hefty trading gains and lower fixed cost projections are this year's earnings growth," UCPB executive vice president and chief finance officer Cesar Baltazar said yesterday in a statement.

UCPB grew its loan portfolio last year by 1.6 percent to P64.77 billion, and its trading and investment securities by 14 percent to P68 billion.

This good volume expansion, along with the 11-percent improvement in margins, boosted the bank's current income by 11 percent, to P7.83 billion, Baltazar said.

The bank's noninterest income also went up by 32 percent, to P2.22 billion, bolstered by a substantial increase in trading gains.

Baltazar said the steady growth of the bank's deposits enabled the expansion of loans and investments, likewise providing the liquidity for the increase in trading activities during the year. UCPB's deposits reached P146.57 billion at the end of 2010, up by 16 percent.

With two-thirds of the deposit growth coming in the form of low-cost current and savings accounts, the bank was able to cut its interest expense.

"We're starting to reap the benefits from the upgrade of our branch network that we pursued in earnest last year as part of our re-branding program," Baltazar said.

UCPB has renovated 60 of its branches to increase market visibility and enhance customer experience. It relocated 18 others to more accessible locations with bigger storefront and also opened five new ones, extending the bank's market presence to 161 locations.

"Our re-branding program has done wonders for our public image. We're attracting more customers because of the fresh look of our branches, better products and improved customer service due to an upgrade of our automated systems as well as streamlined processes," he said.

Robbie said UCPB's re-branding program also focuses on improving the capabilities of the bank's employees.

"The key to the success of our re-branding effort lies in how well our people internalize and embody the brand behavior that we want our customers to experience, which is why we continue to invest in comprehensive training workshops on leadership, sales process management and customer brand experience management," he said.

UCPB ended the year with total assets of P178.13 billion, up by 9 percent from the previous year while total capital went up by 15 percent to P14.2 billion.

Dividends seen as Lopez firm gets back in the black

LOPEZ HOLDINGS Corp. this year expects to chalk up its first capital surplus since 2002.

With this development, shareholders may soon look for word to cash dividends from the company.

From a high of P9.46 billion in 2004, the previously debt-crippled Lopez Holdings slashed its retained deficit to P396 million at end-2010, aided by key asset sales and a break through in debt resolution.

Lopez Holdings president Salvador Tirona said that with the balance sheet fixed, shareholders would have to reason to expect something from the company.

"So to the extent of dividends that we hope we can declare, we can finalize the audit and, in due time, we will be able to make a declaration, hopefully in time for the next shareholders' meeting in June," Tirona yesterday said during a special meeting.

Lopez Holdings, formerly Benpres Holdings, was not able to declare cash dividends in the past, but it did issue stock dividends.

The last time it declared stock dividends was in 1994.

Tirona explained that it had been difficult for the company to provide returns to shareholders due to the large debt that had pinned on the company's earnings for years.

But in the last eight years, the holding firm was able to reduce its debt burden from P120 billion to only P65 billion, as of last December.

Because of its foreign currency-denominated debt, Benpres was hit hard by the Asian financial crisis in 1997, when the peso weakened from 26 to 40 to the dollar overnight.

Failed investments in water distribution and solar facilities prevented the company from using its debt obligations and putting that hot investment activities during 2002.

But most of the debt owed to institutional investors had either been bought back or converted out. The remaining $65-million debt is mostly held by asset bondholders, Tirona said.

The publicly listed holding firm of the Lopez family has investments in media (ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.), telecommunications (Bayan Telecommunications Holdings Corp.), information services (Meralco Corp.), power generation and distribution (First Philippine Holdings Corp.) and cable television (Sky Vision Corp.).

Earlier, it divested its interests in banking, toll roads, information technology, property development and health care delivery.

"I think the major businesses—ABS-CBN and FPH—have good fundamentals, prospects this year. Hopefully in the first quarter, we'll negotiate some positive [results]," Baltazar Dumlao

MVSOLUTIONS
STOP attendance fraud NOW!
257-7695 to 99
Got fully secured with CCTV Surveillance & Guard Patrol System!
₱22,800
RECOH
culture101
Fix-Lab 210

The Best Green Computing Solutions for your Datacenter
With Highest Power Efficiency, Hot Swap Drive Bays and High Expansion Capabilities for the Best System Value.
SRP 120,000.00
SRP 189,000.00
SRP 173,000.00
94% / 93% Power Efficiency
For TCO improvement and earth-friendly computing
For more information on Supermicro Server product line, visit our website www.supermicro.com
Powerful. Intelligent.
SUPERMICRO
We Keep IT Green
REDWOOD VENTURES, INC.

PILAR BUYSON VILLARAMA

of Bacolor, Pampanga and Baliuag, Bulacan

Now peacefully rests in the infinite grace and goodness of our Lord Jesus Christ on the 26th day of February 2011 at the age of 90.

Her loving husband, Pedro V. Villarama, Jr. (†);

Her children: Willie and Tessie Butiong, Orange (†), Josie and Ed Cruz, and Lena;

Her grandchildren: Cara and her mother Mamum Estrada; Josi and Jason Jiang, Mariel and Juan Munoz and their mother Sylvia Yap; Rafael Miguel "RM"; Janice Pilar, John Peter; Rinna and Chris Castillo, Denise and Jerry (†) Lopez, Bunny and Pay Rufino;

Her great grandchildren: Sofia and Gabriella Villarama, Anita Munoz, Joshua Jiang, Noah Castillo, Chino and Bianti Lopez, Gianna Rufino;

Her nephews and nieces;

request the prayer readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de S. Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City. Interment will be on Wednesday, March 2, at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 1:00 pm mass at Santuario de San Antonio Parish.

BARTOLOME T. HERMOSURA, SR.

The Founding Father and Chairman Emeritus of Philippine Federation of Bakers' Association, Inc. (PFBAI)

Born: January 13, 1925
Died: February 26, 2011

Married to: **Luz L. Hermosura** (†)

Survived by: Sons: **Jungi** & **Chito**
Daughters-in-law: **Fe**, **Belle**
Grandchildren: **Zyra**, **Bryan**, **Che**
Sister: **Pacencia Hermosura**
and Relatives

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Gonzco, Tagbilaran City, Bohol

Requiem Mass on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. St. Joseph Cathedral, Tagbilaran City, Bohol

Interment follows at Victoria Memorial Park, Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

Condolences from:
Philippine Federation of Bakers' Associations, Inc. (PFBAI)
Filipino-Chinese Bakery Association, Inc. (FCBAI)
Philippine Society of Baking (PSB)

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

The Society of the Divine Word
Philippine Central Province
(SVD-PHC)

announces with great sorrow the demise of

FR. JUVENAL CAOILI SVD

May 3, 1931 - February 27, 2011

The body lies in state at the Villa Cristo Rey
Christ the King Seminary,
E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Quezon City.

Burial will be on
March 2, 2011 (Wednesday)
after the 3:00 p.m. Mass
of the Resurrection.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any Valid ID

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEM MASS
FREE DIET DESIGN

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and Bank-to-Bank payments

CLASSIFIEDS

Printing Equipment, Machinery and Plant Utilities
Online Auction

Sale Closing: Thursday, 31 March 2011 at 10:00am
Location: Pasadena City, Augustine, Rio Grande Valley
Assets Include:
Printing Presses & Equipment: (2) 7 SUPERSIZE 28" Two Color Printing Press, SCHREIBER Production Two Color Printing Press, DIDDE CLASSIC SC 710 Two Color Web Press, KOMORI Model LS22 Two Color Offset Press, 1998 MAN ROLAND Color Press, SCHREIBER 8 Plate Duplex, ADAST/RAPIDO 660 4/0+1 Two Color Offset Printing Press, (2) ADAST/RAPIDO 54 Duplex 4/0+1 Two Color Offset Printing Press, (2) 1978 Rapid Two Color Offset Press, Offset Machine, Cut Size Paper Re-winder, Cut Size Folding Machine
Outside: Auction Only: Pre-Owned Graphic Systems Roll Cleaner
Construction Site: 10,000 SF - 60 Acre Known Property Open Site
For more information, please contact: JEFFERY
Bid Hot Line: Email: auction@go-dove.com

Go to www.go-dove.com

Go to www.the-blue.com

Go to www.coindustry.com

Coindustry DoveBid

DO YOU WANT A FULFILLING CAREER IN TELEVISION?

JOIN THIS TOP-RATED NOONTIME SHOW
EAT...BULAGA! AND BE PART OF OUR TEAM!!

URGENTLY NEEDED...

CREATIVE WRITERS
RESEARCHERS
FLOOR DIRECTOR
SYSTEM ENGINEER

APPLY **NOW** at:

TELEVISION AND PRODUCTION EXPONENTS, INC.
RTS Xavierville Avenue, Xavierville Subdivision
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
BUSINESS SPACE
BUSINESS RENTAL
BAR & RESTAURANT
BUSES/TRUCKS
TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT
CAR LOAN
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CLASSIFIEDS

More Classified Ads

Philippine, Inc. **B5**
Social Security System **B5**

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

BUY - SELL - WANTED
ROLEX
LOUIS VUITTON

Top US, Asian judges to grace TGFI, AKC/UPI dog shows March 5 and 6

Hayden

Lachiewicz

Xie

THE TOP DOG® MAGAZINE (TDM), an affiliate of the Asian Kennel Club (Asia) of the Philippines Inc (AKCUPI), will host the championship shows on Sat. Sunday, March 5 at Trendsetters with Owner Handler of the American Kennel Club as judge who is ENGLISH and Foreign Breeds 2 Inc. (Chair and Club Gift Breed Dog Shows on Sunday, March 6 at Trendsetters, Ortigas Ave. Ext. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5), Pasig City to be adjudicated by Richard Luebbehusen of the American Kennel Club (AKC), Jeanne Chong, life of the Korean Kennel Club (KKC) and Tseng Pei-Lin of Taiwan.

Hayden has been in the dog culture 1970, starting his career as a handler. He has bred several champions. He started a Miniature Schnauzers, and then added Chihuahuas and Japanese Chins as a secondary breed. Over the years, he has bred, exhibited, and finished all three colors of Miniature Schnauzers, including a 17 Black & White National winner/Minnesota Specialty in 1993, 24 Helicopters, Mixed Area Wins. Currently the President of the newly formed Illinois Federation of Dog Clubs and Owners, Hayden is among the 100 Top Dog Fans of the Million Dog Walk/Animal Fair, the judging assignments have taken him to various parts of the US, Australia, Canada, and China.

Lachiewicz who has been into dogs since 1978, is known for showing Gibson Iron Rottweilers, Chihuahuas, Japanese Chin and Samoyed under the kennel "Dog-Imonk" which has won in National and Regional Specialty Shows. She's then President of the Lawrence Leeds Chihuahua Club and is a member of the American Miniature Schnauzer Club (AMSC), Japanese Chin Club of America, Illinois Capitol Kennel Club (ICKC) and Standard Club of America (SCA). He has 6 Rottweiler shows all over The US and some Asian countries. Sir, she has been a members of KKC since 1988, operates and owning a Beautiful Bridge Rottweilers, breeds about 7 Bitches, and has been keeping breeding dogs for 20 years. He is a full-time professor at Polo Dagat-Inalah at Bagac and is the Women's Commander in Korea which has industrial and educational cooperation with KCC. In 2004 he became the Chief Judge of the KKC. He was granted an international judge in 1998. Currently he is a board member of the Korean Kennel Club. For details, please call (+63)(02)7284-9 (+63-2) email us at mail@akcupi.com or visit its website: www.akcupi.com

ATTENTION: Classified Advertisers

Publication Days
Deadline
Cancellation
Payment
Requirements

CLASSIFIEDS

GSIS puts up more GW@PS kiosks

500 machines to be installed nationwide

By Rosemil W. Dominguez

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System is rolling out 52 new automated kiosks in several government offices in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Robert Vergara, GSIS president and general manager, said this batch of new GSIS voice-activated processing centers (GSIS@PS) kiosks formed part of a bigger batch of 500 machines that would be installed in several government agencies, provincial capitols, malls by July 2011.

"More kiosks spell greater convenience for our more than 1.7 million members and pensioners," Vergara said. The latest 52 kiosks will serve more than 140,000 members in these offices."

With the kiosks, members can check their records and apply for service loans by using their e-cards "without going to GSIS offices [and] thus cutting down time and money for travel expenses," he added.

The GSIS chief said the first batch of the new kiosks would be installed in the Office of the President, both Houses of Congress, the Supreme Court, the provincial capitols of Batangas, Bulacan, Laguna and Rizal, and the city hall of General Santos.

GSIS kiosks will be put up in both the main office and satellite offices of the Department of Education tied to division nationwide.

They will also be deployed in the main offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Justice, Commission on Audit, Commission on Elections, Land Registration Authority, Land Bank of the Philippines, Home Development Mutual Fund, Office of the Court Administrator, Philippine General Hospital and Philippine National Police.

Other kiosks will be put up in the University of the Philippines' Diliman campus and DepEd division offices in Manila, Quezon City, Baguio City and Rizal province.

Currently, the GSIS has GW@PS in at least 10 offices across the country although members can use their e-card for transactions inside through 6,000 automated teller machines nationwide.

The installation of additional kiosks is part of efforts to have at least one such kiosk in each of the country's 229 geographical congressional districts.

Roundup

Security Bank wins awards

SECURITY Bank Corp. has bagged the 2010 "Gawad Sa Kahusayan" Investment Bank Award for the company's best securities broker in financial market infrastructure provider Philippine Dealing System (PDS), for the sixth consecutive year.

The "Best Securities Bank" award was awarded "Sekur Investment Bank" last year in honor of the veteran broker and the private placement agent who was also appointed for the establishment of the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines.

The bank was also named the top bond seller come October, top fixed income debt settlement bank and top bond issuance dealer for 2010. It was also among the top five most frequent exchange-PDS clients.

In the meantime, PDS awarded Apex Corp. the "Innovative Issue of the Year" for bringing to the market an innovative instrument, the first-ever publicly-listed non-convertible. — *Doris C. Bonoan*

Sun's 'Mobile Pay'

SUN CELLULAR (Sun) now uses Sun Cellular's Mobile Pay to promote payment using credit cards, ATMs, mail-order catalogs.

Sun Mobile Pay, a mobile-centric payment system, employs Sun-powered point-of-sale device, allows business owners to quickly process customer payment transactions anywhere without the need for a telephone line or costly wired installations.

Business owners can choose between a portable near-available for prices as P1,299 per month, or the desktop version for a minimum of P1,250 monthly.

All Mobile Pay packages include a Sun SIM, a point-of-sale device, training on the use of equipment, and 24/7 customer support.

EqB's balance transfer promo

EQUITABLE Savings Bank (EqB) recently launched its balance 0% and Reduced Interest Balance Transfer promo.

The promo, which is good up to April 30, 2011, is available to all active savings and Equicredit cardholders. With this offer, cardholders can make their balance transfers at low annual interest as three-month terms, for a minimum of P10,000, or as low as 3.88 percent for 12-, 18- and 24-month terms.

The credit card account applied for balance transfer must be 60 days past the payment period and in terms of transactions, and should be active and in good credit standing.

₱600-M NGCP substation in Cebu starts operations

By Amy R. Remo

HAVERIA, CEBU Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), operator of the national transmission network, has started operations at its P600-million Naga Substation in Cebu, a move that is expected to help stabilize power supply to the Visayas grid.

In a statement, NGCP said the recently completed substation would make it possible for Visayan SPC Power Corp. (SPPC), a joint venture between Korea Electric Power Corp. and SPC Power Corp., to synchronize to the Visayas grid in 200-megawatt coal-fired power plant.

"This new substation will serve as the connection point for the two 300-MW generating units of SPPC Toledo Power Plant located just 500 meters from the substation. It is also expected to accommodate the next load growth in the Visayas power grid. The substation has the capacity to receive and transmit power of up to 900-megavolt-ampere," NGCP said.

According to NGCP, the Naga substation was "turn-geared" last weekend to time for the start of the SPPC plant's commercial operations tomorrow, Feb. 28. The first 180-MW unit was put online yesterday while the second 300-MW unit is expected to be available by Mar. 31, 2011.

Apart from the Naga substation, the transmission network operator had also put up a transmission line

Meralco 2010 income . . .

From page B3

Meralco is looking to spend as much as $2.3 billion (roughly P100 billion) to complete its planned power generation portfolio between now and 2015.

Oscar S. Reyes, chief operating officer of Meralco, said the distribution utility still intends to put up power facilities running on diesel, coal and/or liquefied natural gas to generate some 3,000 megawatts in additional capacities for the Luzon grid.

According to Pangilinan, Meralco needed to add more electricity supply to the market and manage power costs at the same time.

Currently, Meralco sources its electricity requirements from the electricity spot market, data run National Power Corp. and independent power producers.

The generation charges from these power generation firms formed the bulk of the electricity bill of Meralco.

"Tight supply versus higher prices and lower prices [because] for the higher rates. We also have to look for new sources of income," Pangilinan added.

Wood shortage . . .

From page B4

Also being affected by the logging ban are those engaged in the construction of medium- and low-cost housing units, as these need a lot of lumber and plywood.

With Executive Order No. 23, or the indefinite logging ban, still in force, Reyes said many local wood producers were no longer committing to long-term and consistent shipments to their clients, as they were not sure until when their log supplies would last.

Whether long haul not indicated how long the logging ban would stay in force, he said.

The issuance of EO 23 was for six months, he said, but already-priced wood prices to spike. Prices of lumber and plywood products had so far gone up by 25-30 percent.

A quarter-inch plywood or 5-millimeter board, for example, now sells for P264 per board, from only P270-P280 piece in the issuance of EO 23.

P-Noy urged to stop PAL outsourcing plan

By Pedro G. Maronilla

RANK-AND-FILE employees of Philippine Airlines (PAL) have asked President Benigno Aquino III more to stop the airline from implementing a plan to outsource 2,000 jobs, saying that the latest bailed-out flag carrier was no longer in danger of going under.

In a statement submitted to the Office of the President, the PAL Employees' Association (Palea) also lashed the claims of the airline that the outsourcing was a worldwide trend that all companies need to survive.

"The Department of Labor and Employment believed the company's claims that it had to implement the mass termination to save the collapse of the company. Thus... (it) relied in favor of the company and upheld the validity of the mass termination," Palea said in its statement.

"Now, P4Q+ financial statements for 2010 are out, and clearly show the airline has more than a Philippine million," the group said.

In its statement, which was submitted as part of rebuttal to another memorandum Malacañang, Palea cited documents filed at the Securities and Exchange Commission showing PAL reporting three consecutive quarters of profitability.

Documents showed the airline posting a first quarter profit of P3.14 million. This was followed by a P28.2 million profit in the second quarter and a P35.1-million net income in September to December—the third quarter of the company's fiscal year, or a total net income of P74.9 million for April to December 2010.

Palea also noted that PAL was able to pay a P46.5-million loan in June 2010.

PAL earlier said it lost about P300 million in the last five fiscal years prior to its 2010 profit due to the high oil prices.

Palea said this proved that PAL did not need to cut 2,000 jobs in order to survive.

It also noted that PAL's payment that it had become a worldwide trend and necessary to outsource non-core operations, such as in-flight catering, call center reservations and airport, was not true.

PAL had said outsourcing these services would allow it to meet rates and become more competitive.

FREE Spy Camera with every purchase of Sandy Clock!

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JA HOON KU

MIGUEL M. DE VERA

HAE EUN CHEONG

The public is hereby informed that the above-named persons, **Messrs. JA HOON KU, MIGUEL M. DE VERA, FRANKLIN M. DE VERA** and **ERNIE M. DE VERA** are no longer the nominees of their principals in Philippine, Inc. Mr. HAE EUN CHEONG acquired his shares from a previous nominee without the consent and against the wishes of said nominee's principal. As such, they can no longer, and cannot, legally act as shareholders, directors, and/or corporate officers of Philippine, Inc., and cannot, in any manner or form, transact for, represent and/or bind Philippine, Inc., especially regarding its Condominium Project located at No. 42 Morning Star Drive, Samville Subdivision, Quezon City.

For any inquiries, please feel free to contact the counsel of their principals, SUAREZ & NARVASA LAW FIRM, 3/F CSJ Building, 105 Aguirre Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City, by phone (810-4880, 810-9217, 810-9218 or 810-9228), fax (8104881) or email (**selaw@suareznarvasa.com**).

Thank you.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCIES

BUSINESS

PLAY (BIG) PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) LEADERS' SHOWTABLE
PSE1 Corporate Business Group recently joined the pre-launch cocktails of the PSE Trade held at the Blue Leaf, Tuguig City.
The PSE Trade is Landmark Trading System acquired by the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) from NYSE Technologies. It offers flexibility through a wider range of asset classes and derivatives. It is also expected to improve the capacities of the PSE to handle any future sharp increase in value turnover. Eventually, this new trading system will lead the way for cross-border trading with other Southeast Asian bourses in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.
Shown in top photo from left to right are: PSE1 Relationship Manager Ronald Perez; PSE President Jack Ikot; PSE Director & Investment Division Head Marietta Tan; PSE1 VP & Head of Corporate Business Group Jose Hernandez and PSE1 Head of Corporate Relationship Business Unit Mendoza.

Wood shortage seen likely

By Abigail L. Flo

TO PREVENT a wood shortage, the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) is asking the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to accelerate its evaluation of logging firms and allow them complying with rules on sustainable forest resource management to resume logging operations.

In a statement, PWPA director Arturo Tayar said the country would face a wood shortage very soon if the indefinite ban on logging operations would not be lifted.

He said a wood shortage would not bode well for the country as this would affect a number of industries, including housing, construction, boat-building and furniture.

"The logging moratorium has caused the inability of the wood industry to supply the construction industry with its wood product requirements, particularly concrete forming boards used by builders of high-rise buildings. At present, many construction companies are already complaining about the shortage of these products, which are usually needed in building concrete as it is poured," he said.

"Furthermore, the small boat-building industry, which supplies boats for the transport needs of our countrymen who travel by water to their destinations, will have an uncertain materials. This also includes small fishermen who use wooden boats in their maintenance of catching fish. This particular segment of the boat industry requires well-bonded hardwood panels and frames so that their boats can withstand the rigors of ocean travel," he added.

WOOD 10

Charge your checks to your credit card!

Have you ever found yourself wanting to pay with your credit card but needing to pay with a check instead? Is maintaining and balancing a checking account something you don't want to worry about?

Now, a world of payment options opens up to you! Because with Equicom Savings Bank, you can get a Credit Card with a checking facility linked to it! Equicom's Credit Card comes equipped with Equicom Super Check - a unique service that allows you to write checks up to 100% of your available credit card limit!

Since the Equicom Super Check is linked to your Equicom Credit Card, your payment options become wider than ever before! Be it tuition, house repairs, or rent, you can pay for practically everything and have it charged to your credit card!

"When the opportunity to buy things at low cost comes, I take it! I can always rely on my Equicom Super Check to make payments in an instant without having to worry about my budget!

Niri Lara, Comptroller, San Beda College Manila

One of the biggest hurdles in getting a checking account is the high maintaining balance requirements. With Equicom Super Check, you can say goodbye to reconciling your accounts monthly. For a low service fee of only 1.5% for every check issued, Super Check is a much simpler way of making check payments.

"I never knew issuing checks could be so easy and worry-free! I'm so glad I chose Equicom Credit Card. Now, it comes with a checking facility!"

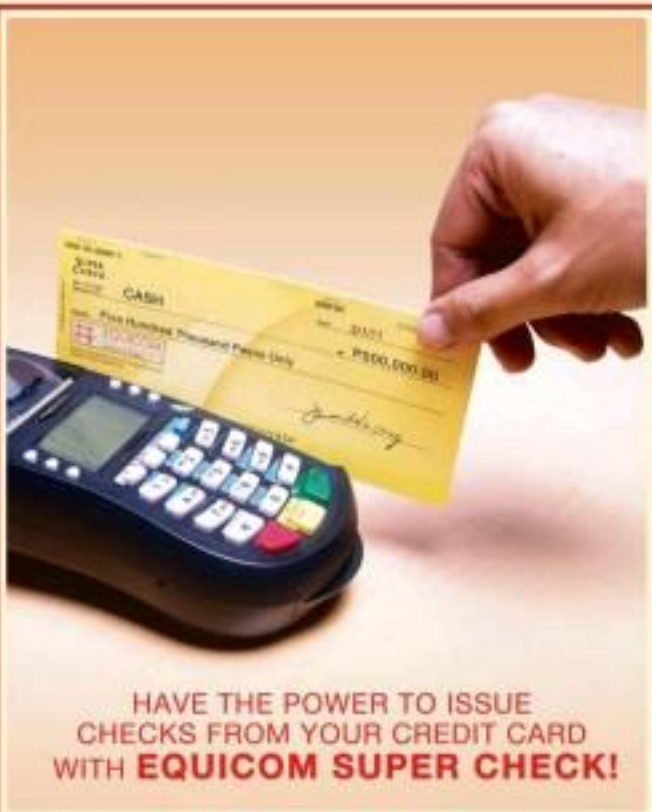
Bianne F. Tupas, Director, All Youth Channels

How many times have you found yourself needing to pay for something instantly, like doctor's fees, an unplanned purchase, or emergency payments like car repairs? With Equicom Super Check, your credit limit is at your disposal. You have instant access to credit, allowing you to issue checks anytime the need arises.

"The Equicom Super Check goes beyond my expectations. It lets me take care of any unexpected expenses that I have to deal with on a daily basis!"

Mr. Alfredo D. Sanoria, Businessman

With Equicom Savings Bank's unique Credit Card and Super Check offer, issuing checks has never been easier! Apply for an Equicom Super Check now and discover a whole new world of payment options! *Contact the Kgb Hotlines at (02) 340-9992 or 1-800-10-EQUICOM (1378426) or visit www.equicomsavings.com for more details.*



HAVE THE POWER TO ISSUE CHECKS FROM YOUR CREDIT CARD WITH **EQUICOM SUPER CHECK!**

Get a credit card with a checking facility linked to it! The Equicom Credit Card comes equipped with the Equicom Super Check! – a unique service that allows you to write checks up to 100% of your available credit card limit! Now, you can use your credit card even for transactions where only checks are accepted! Plus, enjoy lower interest rates as compared to credit card cash advances. You even earn rewards points for every check issued! A whole world of payment options is open to you with the Equicom Credit Card and Super Check.

EQUICOM SAVINGS BANK
An Equicom Company

Opening Doors, Building Tomorrows.

A proud member of BancNet

SUBSCRIBE (02) 24-8000 OR Domestic Toll Free 1-800-10-EQUICOM (1378426) WEBSITE www.equicomsavings.com
Equicom Corporate Offices 374 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Member PDIC. Maximum deposit insurance of P500,000 per depositor.
*Subject to eligibility.

LIFESTYLE Wellness

Filipina wakeboarders, American champs shine in CamSur

By Arnelle S. Tayao

LUVAETHA Bermudez, Woman's Pro Wakeboard 1st placer

TOM FOOSHEE, UWC 2011 Overall Wakeboard champion

"To have the whole spectrum of ages here is surreal,' said overall champion Tom Fooshee of the US

THE WORLD'S top professional wakeboarders and wakeskaters were Bicol's main attraction at the recent 2011 Ultimate Wake Championship (UWC) held at the Camarines Sur Watersports Complex (CWC).

Pinoy pride—and girl power, no—were not missing, either, as homegirls Bermudez from Quezon City bested Germany's Elizabeth Fuchs for the Pro Women Wakeboarding category, while Bicolana Lynna Rosero placed second for Pro Women Wakeskate.

The competitions, an adrenaline-pumping showcase of wakeboard and wakeskate tricks, was the final leg of the 2010 Pinoy Wakeboard Association (PWBA) Wake Park Wakeboarding and WWA Wakeboard World Series.

With the world's most complete wake park facility as their playground, riders displayed their versatility in all three major wakeboarding disciplines: boat, cable and Xpicam 2.0 winch.

"This is the goal of the organizers—sports tourism," said Camarines Sur Gov. Lray Villafuerte. "We are proud to be hosting UWC for the third consecutive year."

Outstanding riders included Tom Fooshee from the US, who won the UWC overall wakeboard champion, and bagged top-placers in the Obstacles Only and Pro Men wakeboard Cable and overall categories; and Reed Hansen, USA, UWC overall wakeskate champion.

But it was UWC's youngest rider, 12-year-old Daniel Grant, who became the crowd favorite after bagging top spot in the Pro Men wakeboard cable category, beating other more mature competitors. Grant also placed in the Obstacles Only and Pro Wakeskate Cable categories, taking home prize money worth $7,000.

"I knew I landed my 900s, 3-inches, Moby Dick 5s," said Grant, describing his top wakeboard and wakeskate tricks.

Kids and Moby Dick 5s are reigns of terror at Xpo. With the 5 moby, a rider must extend his body upward, hand above the head, without doing a complete flip.

"To have the whole spectrum of ages here is surreal," said Fooshee.

"I just tried my best," said Bermudez of her victory. "Train two-lang 'yon eh, because during the run, a lot of people shake—worries get to some people."

Bermudez, 24, took up wakeboarding when she was 19, when friends invited her over it in Lago de Oro in Batangas. She now teaches the sport, too, and will be representing the country under the wakeboarding category at the next Southeast Asian games.

"Wakeboarding is progressive," says Bermudez. "There's no end to it. There's always something to learn every time you ride."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

COMICRelief

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011

GARFIELD — By Jim Davis

A. LIBRA — By JOE ABERRA

PLAGAS BABOY — By Jim Lanzas

DICK TRACY

LOVEBANATS — By ELIZABETH CHONGLO

BABY BLUES — By JERRY SCOTT

ROBO MACHINE — By MANOS ABERRA

BEN — By DANIEL SHELTON

Laging makeup ng drama sa ECS ang 10:30 AM-1:00 PM | Laws Hanggang Siyam Nes

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — By JIM TOOMEY

TULDOK — By MARK COLL

HOROSCOPE

By FRANCIS DRAKE

THIS WEEK TODAY You have a gentle charisma but you're not one to push. Some of your ideas are unfathomable and you're not naturally methodical artistic although others often underestimate you. You have much in store to look forward to, because you're adept at enjoying life. (You always look well-suited together.)

World dance champions bring new moves to Manila

The Philippine Starball wasn't for ballroom purists, as international dance stars brought so much razzle-dazzle to basic styles, some new to Filipino audiences

By Margot C. Enriquez
Correspondent

THE PHILIPPINE Starball Dance Festival of Champions, held at the Makati Shangri-La, featured high-octane exhibition dancing by the world's best pairs.

The three-hour show was not for ballroom purists, as the 24 numbers added so much razzle-dazzle to the basic styles, some of them new to the Filipino audience.

Producers Michaela "Pinky" Peña spared nothing to come up with a well-designed event. No less than World Top Dancer champ Gary McDonald (he trained Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez for the Hollywood movie "Shall We Dance?"), hosted the show. Resident choreographer Vicki Tantiado did the opening number with Peña, showing off her elegant ballistic lines and suave style to the Viennese waltz with her partner-mentor Rissa Sergio. The series of Filipino dance champions impressed with sharp movements of the paso doble, gracefulness of finals (tapatel), and a sprinkling of jazz.

JOSE de Castro and Johanna Zuchowski doing salsa. (above) the number

Daredevil partnering

The second favorite was the daredevil partnering of Hans-ue Kurtwanz and Victor de Silva.

Kurtwanz started out in pants dance to Bizet carmen "Toro Stompee (Forever)," she was to Killer heels. The mid-riser showed of their signature step, the Bronx or overhead step that had Kurtwanz wrapping around Dr. Silva's body and gracefully spiraling on the floor. "It's not risky—two people going through different things and how things develop from what we first dreamed of," she said.

The Latin dances were filled with role-playing, intense passing, and supersensuousness with style. The crowd adored Sergio Bolero and Abdul's blend though clichéd interpretation of the paso doble, a dance about the bullfighter seducing the bull with his cape before he moves in for the kill. Their jive number started with Bachar sitting on a chair, nonchalantly partnering Meiko, until they broke into their cappy and gotta dance.

Rhonnie Coodo and Yuka Zagoyoshi, trained by Dennis Baron, the undisputed Latin world champion, depicted the typical Italian lover squiring different women in the cha-cha-cha. Zagoyoshi-ko was the temptress playing a game with his lover, to the samba, she was the sassy and merry-go-with, and to the paso doble, she was a fiery gypsy willing his fortune.

Latin champions José de Campo and Johanna Zuchowski introduced the ballroom set to Christina Aguilera's music. It was a romantic dance that combined the sensuousness and footwork of the rumba, with the body rise and groove of a waltz. Their Foxtrot was an East Coast swing to the music of "Greased Lightning." Their earthy number with footwork inspired by the swing, set to "Agua Bile," evoked a verbal feeling.

Swirls and twirls

Most fun in the romantic mode of ballroom dancing were Argentine tango couple Carolina Zokalski and Hugo di la Peña; Rolinda Dominlera and Arsenio Mendoza for international standard; and Mikhail Thornton and Galina Orekina for the American smooth (think Fred Astaire). They homed on seamlessly planning and intimacy (served of twirls. Zokalski and di la Peña formed an enchanting footwork with occasional little jumps. "We dance for ourselves. That's what the audience does. That's what the audience comes for. We don't show off," said di la Peña.

Filipinos don't really appreciate subtlety. They favored Miriam Lacre and Leonardo Barrientos's Argentine tango for speed and big lifts.

Thornton and Orekina were models of the Fred Astaire style, characterized by side swept, progressive steps with lively hops, jazz, and tap. The couple was flowy in their footwork, and were paragons of perfect unison in the ground-skimming Viennese waltz set to Edit Piaf's chanson. They captured the joy of dancing in the slow waltz in the closing music from "Schindler's List," with little surprises. "We try to bring the dynamics of real-life relationships to the dance floor," said Orekina.

Rhonda and Dominica spun romantic swirls and twirls in the floor in their footwork set to Michael Bublé's "I'm Your Man." Their personal favorite was the percussive Benny Goodman music "Sing, Sing, Sing," to which they did a virtuoso quickstep. In their finale waltz, set to the theme music of "The Sleeper Awakens," Dominica floated in a white confection of a dress.

Their numbers summed up the spirit of ballroom. "I introduce the movements and the rhythms. It's a harmony. I encourage individuals where there's no distinction," said Orekina.

KATUSHA Dominica and Arsenio Rondon in the finale waltz. "Our coaches showed first they liked what they did. That's most important," says Rondon.

STARBELL organizer Pinky Peña (c) with Rissa Sergio and Vincent Abdul.

PRAYING Zhorlene and Carlos Dorkins pose for American Smooth finalists.

RAMMASH Kurtzwanz and Victor de Silva in an overhead lift.

Women's hormones—'don't blame it on your husband!'

INSIDE OUT
Gary Quintos

THE SOLUTION of youth! Some say it's water, for others, it is exercise, many attribute it to stress management. And what about hormones, what crucial role do they play?

Do we ignore them or accept their youth-controlling abilities? Some dictionaries define death as "loss of hormones." According to anti-aging medicine advocate Suzanne Somers in her book "Breakthrough: 6 Steps to Well-ness," there is an approach to hormonal imbalance, which, if left untreated, can lead to weight gain, sleeplessness, emotional rage, loss of libido and ultimately illness.

Breakthrough medicine's cornerstone is bio-identical hormone replacement (BHRT), as opposed to "chemical" hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

That's it, some body needs these hormones to function properly—estrogen, testosterone, progesterone, cortisol, human growth hormone (HGH), melatonin, pregnenolone, thyroxine (T4), T3) adrenals, insulin.

The tricky part is that the cocktail mix of hormones varies with every person. This is why a visit to your doctor or endocrinologist helps. Ask about BHRT, the natural answer to hormone deficiency. Here are answers to some of your questions heard on body conversation with Dr. Quincy Reyes (Asian Institute of Longevity Medicine, tel. 386-1111/ 0917-8008336).

I'm a 40-year-old mother of two. My skin is so dry! Its not for what type of moisturizer I use, it's not improving at all! There are also wrinkles around my eyes and mouth. What is wrong with my skin?

You are experiencing symptoms and estrogen deficiency skin problems related to perimenopause. Progesterone and estrogen are the key hormones that are given to menopausal women to increase skin moisture, make hair lustrous, supple, supple and well-nourished. It also holds up collagen and progesterone prevents its breakdown. Sun damage skin more elastic, less wrinkled and noticeably younger looking.

These hormones also reduce menopausal symptoms of hot flushes, irritability and mood swings. Bum magnesium, optimal estradiol levels provide protection against osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease. When estradiol levels drop, testosterone sets out determine your levels to correct before optimal values through bio-identical liposomal creams.

Hypothyroidism, which occurs when an underactive thyroid does not produce enough hormones, can cause dry skin and hair. Instead of the bodily nervous speeding up, they slow down. Other symptoms: fatigue, depression, feeling cold, weight gain, constipation and menstrual irregularities. This is treated with an oral form of thyroid hormone.

I feel so tired everytime. I feel tired even if I've only just woken up! What is wrong with me?

This condition could be caused by low cortisol and the beginning of adrenal fatigue. When the adrenal glands are not functioning optimally you may have a condition known as adrenal fatigue, or adrenal exhaustion. Adrenal fatigue often develops after long periods of physical or emotional stress causing over-stimulation of the glands, leaving them unable to meet your body's needs. Cortisol is a stress hormone produced by your adrenals. It runs with stress, remains elevated with chronic anxiety and may be depleted if one has a very stressful lifestyle. They lose levels of cortisol can cause death. A simple blood test can determine your cortisol levels. Depleted levels may be replaced with oral hydrocortisone.

An under-active thyroid could also cause fatigue. The thyroid is a small gland in the lower neck which secretes thyroid hormones that control the body's metabolism. Thyroid hormones affect many body functions including respiratory and heart rate, calorie burned, fertility and digestion. Hypothyroid, or slow thyroid, causes fatigue, depression, slow thinking, weight gain, constipation. Testing for your thyroid hormones: FT3, FT4 and TSH, will confirm if you have a slow thyroid. Correction of this condition may be done easily and safely by taking bio-identical thyroid hormones.

I can't lose weight! All I've been eating are salads and I exercise all the time, but I still can't lose weight! What else can I do?

When the thyroid hormones are less than optimal, a person may be in a hypothyroid state causing them to gain weight. A thyroid function test from the blood can determine if the levels are optimal. Bio-identical thyroid hormones are used to increase metabolism and help in weight loss.

Testosterone, growth hormone, progesterone and 8 HGH may also be used to help patients lose weight. Testosterone decreases belly fat and cellulite as well as tones muscles. Growth

ROCKWELL LADIES TENNIS CLUB
The Rockwell Ladies Tennis Group held a despedida for Yoshiyo Iwasaki at Elite Shangri-La. They are, from left, Lex Wilkens; coach John Ray Moreno, Marite Ramos, Ms Iwasaki, Mari Hiraishi, Kumi Fujii, Aceno Sandoval-Asmussen, Mikiko Ishikawa and Ms Kondo.

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

The mystical origins of psychic surgery

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

Faith healing is a gift from the Holy Spirit granted only to a chosen few

PHILIPPINE

A MOST frequently asked question is: "Why are our faith healers and psychic surgeons concentrated in Pangasinan, the Bicol region and Central Luzon?"

Some people have advanced the theory that it is because Pangasinan and the Bicol region were once centers of Lemurian civilization, while, next to the Visayas, less advanced civilizations believed to have existed in the Pacific Ocean 150,000 years ago.

According to the legend, Lemuria is corrupted almost half of the known world at that time, which included huge areas of land surrounding the Pacific Ocean.

It supposedly encompassed the whole of Asia, the Far East, Australia, New Zealand, and neighboring islands. Lemurians were believed to have had very highly developed spirituality and psychic powers. They were of brown skin, had wide foreheads, and flat noses. The whole Philippines is believed to be one of the centers of Lemurian civilization, and not just Baguio, Pangasinan and the Bicol region. There were also centers of Lemurian civilization in other countries.

Unfortunately, there is absolutely no historical or physical evidence for the existence of such a lost civilization or continent. It is romanticized merely a fascinating legend up to now, just like Atlantis, which was supposed to have sunk in the Atlantic Ocean 10,500 B.C. Some of the mystics and prophets of Lemuria, according to the books, fled to Atlantis before the former sank in the Pacific Ocean. The Atlanteans were known for their highly developed ESP powers and technical skills. The first to write about the possible existence of Atlantis was the Greek philosopher Plato, who lived around 428 B.C., and was the teacher of Aristotle.

There is a belief that the Filipinos' high spirituality and strong telepathic powers are a remnant of our Lemurian ancestry. And such traits are what have given Filipinos the natural ability to develop a unique spiritual healing method known as Iaun Sondol psychic surgery. The people who practice such indigenous method of healing are called "faith healers," which indicates its religious or spiritual origins.

One possible explanation why faith healers and psychic surgeons emerged in numerous numbers in the Ilocos, Pangasinan and Central Luzon areas including Manila, is because the agrarian movement started and derived here and not in the Visayas and Mindanao regions. The former were agrarian areas and developed more fully in these areas is because the fields of agriculture worldwide, the two books of Adam Kadmi (namely the Book of Spirits and the Book of Medicines) had been translated into the Tagalog language, as well as into Pangasinense and Ilocano dialects.

In the mid '70s, our paranormal research society listed at least 300 psychic surgeons practicing in these areas. I have no statistics to determine how many still practice this art of healing at present. What I know is that their number has greatly diminished because the older ones have died with no younger healers replacing them.

Among the well-known healers I met in the '80s and '90s who are no longer alive are Ilocandes Leon Tongohan, Josephine Silan, Benita Agatid, Jose Mercado, Gary Magno, Benjie Belmonte and Marcelino Amigan. I am sure there are many others I have not heard of but who have since passed on also.

Rare hundred psychic surgery is unique to the Philippines and is part of our spiritual and mystical tradition. And therefore I do not see the practice dying completely for a long time to come despite the spread of western, scientific medical practice. For many cases must be narrowed and taken care of, not only by body.

A distinction must be made between the terms "faith healing" and "psychic surgery." Not all faith healers can perform psychic surgery. It is considered to be a gift of the Holy Spirit granted only to a chosen few, according to the belief of the Spiritist Church. There are thousands of faith healers all over the Philippines, but only a few are psychic surgeons.

Jesus also had his psychic surgeons in the 12th and Spiritist tradition, but their method calls for the use of instruments such as knives, scissors, and even a saw to opening up the body of patients. Our psychic surgeons do not make these kinds of things so. And this is what baffles many western investigators and psychic researchers. The mystery behind this practice can never be understood unless we understand the ways of the spirit world and the way they play in our daily lives. The native Filipinos have apparently discovered a way to tap such mysterious powers.

Note: The next issue dated Saturday, March 5, which teaches participants powerful mental techniques to solve problems and make decisions using the whole brain, will be held this Saturday and Sunday, March 5-6. The final session, Karma & Reincarnation, is scheduled for March 12. For details, please call 8387283 or 8339893, e-mail [illegible]; visit www.primeforum.com. We are still accepting applicants for our next batch.

Women's hormones...

From page C3

need a job?

hormone also enhances fat loss and tightens skin. Progesterone is a natural diuretic that reduces "water weight" thus patients lose that bloated feeling. Beta-HCG (Human Chorionic Gonadotropin) is a hormone present in pregnancy, which may also increase metabolism.

I used to have a healthy sex life with good orgasms. Now, I never want sex, nor feel that I need it anymore. I hate to force myself to have sex with my wonderful husband. I still love my husband because I love him. What is wrong with me?

You have to have good levels of six hormones in order to feel sex. Testosterone is referred to as the libido hormone. When it is too much testosterone, women could turn not only with your sex life, but with enemies as well. When you lack this hormone, your libido wanes, and vaginal lubrication is absent to anemic. With the help of testosterone, the secretion is regulated, orgasms are more "explosive," vaginal lubrication is more than adequate, heightened sensitivity of the erogenous zones are attained as well. A hormone panel can determine your levels, and deficiencies easily treated by using testosterone creams or injections.

I'm 58 years old, just entered menopause, and I've noticed that I've been shedding so much hair recently! I have tried all remedies and hair care products in the market that may help, but nothing happened. Is there anything else that can help?

Women's hair can thin out due to a variety of reasons. In many cases, the issues are diagnosable and treatable. Hair loss may be attributed to iron deficiency and thyroid gland disorders. In some cases, severe stress may cause shedding of hair. Stress triggers sudden elevation of cortisol, the stress hormone, and this can eventually cause the hair to fall out. However, during menopause, when estrogen begins to drop, many women experience hair loss, too. The best plan of action is to determine the cause of hair loss and eliminate it. There is routine physical examwith blood work done to screen for iron deficiency, thyroid gland disorders, elevation of cortisol and anti-aging deficiency then you may speak with your physician regarding treatment options.

I am a 56 year-old male executive and I used to be very fit when I was young—then I entered the corporate world and got married. Over the years, my weight went up and I developed a belly it must have been all those business meetings and family parties. My medications worsen my libido in fact, plus my cholesterol and blood sugar are elevated. How can I be fit and feel good again?

With aging, testosterone levels decrease in men. Consequently, estrogen levels increase and it tends to be, mainly in the belly area, hence the term "beer belly." A beer belly plus high cholesterol, high blood pressure and high blood sugar is known as Metabolic Syndrome—a condition that increases the risk of heart disease and stroke. Interestingly, this is highly related to decrease in testosterone. Thus, testosterone may be given to men who want to decrease their beer belly, and in turn, reduce those risks. Other important factors leading to Metabolic Syndrome are stress, obesity, genetics, other endocrine disorders, aging and a sedentary lifestyle. Thus, it would also be worthwhile to manage stress, eat properly and exercise regularly.

Today's affirmation: "The fountain of youth is within!"

Love and light!

Are you at 50 & fed up? Wellness Center's Solo Open House, March 4, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (by free) 180 12th (9353-6000) #1.

Just One Treatment Guarantees 2cm Waist Reduction

Frustrated and tired of doing strenuous workouts because your bulging belly won't budge? Most medical experts agree that the main function of all exercises is to tone the muscles, not to eliminate a significant amount of fat. So even if you're doing a lot of crunches – chances are your hard work may not be enough to remove your stubborn fat.

What every man should know is that there's a faster, easier and more effective way to lose belly fat now – ULTRASHAPE.

With Ultrashape, all you have to do is just comfortably lie down and completely relax while losing excess inches off your waist. It works by using ultrasound waves that are applied from outside the tummy, which penetrate and "melt away" the targeted fat without damaging tissues or blood vessels. The liquefied fat are absorbed into the blood stream and flushed from the body through natural processes. One treatment session allows you to drop – 2cm off your waist – giving you a flatter belly and you much your desired size. Without you doing any strenuous workout!

What's even better is that, unlike surgical procedures, Ultrashape is a non-invasive method of tummy flattening. You can even catch up on your sleep or read some news while undergoing the treatment. Absolutely no anesthesia required. You can resume your normal activities immediately after the treatment because there's absolutely no downtime! So quick and easy, you can have it during your lunch break or spare time.

Ultrashape has been tested and proven effective. In fact, many men are amazed with how this treatment has helped them lose their gut and made them look, feel and live better!

Ultrashape is available at Marie France FOR MEN. Phone for a NO-COST body-fit analysis. All consultations are carried out in private. Call 813-7858 now and get a flatter tummy in no time!

ENTERTAINMENT

Edited by Emerson G. Velando

Mobile Alert: Text INQ ENTERTAINMENT to 2327 | Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment | E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Send your feedback: inquirer.net/entertainment/feedback

CHEER FACTOR

LONDON—Gwyneth Paltrow looks set to renew the British music charts when the weekly ranking is confirmed, relieving a rhetoric eventually dominated by husband and Coldplay lead singer Chris Martin. Revealed by her spokesman on the "Ellen" television series aired this week in Britain, the 38-year-old Oscar winner is at number 24 with her version of "Singing in the Rain/Umbrella" and at number 29 with a cover of Cee Lo Green's "Forget You." REUTERS

He wears his heart on his sleeve

Anton Alvarez

REVIEW

2009's Mawi Pen Records SINGER-songwriter Anton Alvarez makes no excuses about his choice of genre. "Love songs define who I am," says the half Filipino, half Espanol. So does the title of his debut album "I can (do)anything(but)." he adds.

His new just records, and he doesn't limit "love" to romance. He stops to his child in "Believe In Me" ("Believe in good. Touch the stars..."), his stage of wanting dreams in "Live For Them," an original composition that surprises with depth and style. Here are to pick a favorite here, the one that gives the clearest glimpse of the direction that the artist should take—write the songs and go for broke—it would certainly be this track.

But did we say "style"? It seems Alvarez deliberately steps low on vocal calisthenics, and think heavens for that. His singing is straightforward, sincere, so that the melodies are clear and easy to follow—quite refreshing in this age of reality talk have and abroad, where over-singing jeers, as just make I at the notes. Why, in fact, hide a good voice because it hurricane?

Alvarez goes from mid-low the high the first nine tracks, to introduced on the 10th, a cover of Spandau Ballet's "Through the Barricades." It's like saying to the surprised listener, "Yes, I can hit those notes when I have to." Happily, his cover is none the worse when he does. Which probably makes it uncharitable that, as an audition piece, this cover quickly secured Ben Thousand a seat.

If the visiting Filipino (he's lived in Europe for most of his life) knows when he's at...in a recording artist and as a man, that's because he's no giddy and wide-eyed, or unmoor and gangly-he- adolescent. At upon in 40—he's got that out of the way—the father of four kids, ages 5 to 18, including 7 year-old twins. Three years ago, he and his French wife of 20 years divorced, and the love songs poured out.

The listener hears the long ing, but also the grace that comes with the heartbreak. While "Oh Girl" is the purest chirpy confidence, "Thinking Of You," another original that Alvarez penned, is the more

ED PEARS SY

Punk rock's comeback kids still drive 'em wild

By Allan Policarpio
Contributor

LONESOME Parsons, spoke-dreamers, shows off body art.

Punk rock's comeback...

From page D1

drama-ey the score for the evening. And as the lights burst into a flurry of psychedelic colors, Silhouette continued in club-cum-rave pleaser after another: "Fighting," "Sharok the World," "Sing Along."

Key was apologetic to the fans at one point. "It's been a long several months since you've been waiting for us to perform here," he said. "So, I feel like I need to (say) for every fan: it took us so long to come here and party with you." Then, he posed a challenge. "We've heard that this is one of most intense pits to ride and play a show in. So, you have one hour and 15 minutes to prove it."

On that note, the frenetic-opening guitars of "Breathing" kicked in. The ground shook as the crowd jumped and swayed along with the beat. More pronounced, the circular swarm in "Breathing" held its own against the abrasive guitars and drums.

Not fishy at all

Key, a dead ringer for "Harry Potter" star Tom Felton, was not the flashiest of performers. He didn't have to; he, in the littlest things he did (swipe sweat off his brow, for instance) were enough to make the ladies swoon and shout, "I love you, Ryan!" Models, sensing the sweat when he's on

Ryan Key sang the roof off as he hit the final note, without flinching, and sustained it for several seconds

RYAN Key now on return to Manila.

playing, was more than enough to keep the fans pumped up.

Halfway through the set, Stevens showcased his prowess on the drums in a brief solo. It started slowly, working his way to a mad crescendo that drew shouts of "Ang angas (That's sweet)!" from the fans. Dreadlocks flying, Fenoza gave the cymbals a hard final whack, then threw his drum sticks in the crowd.

The mood turned sentimental as the crowd chimed in with the anthemic favorite, "Only One." One guy told a total stranger that he loved the song so much because it reminded him of a special someone. With the words, "Since I'm, somehow, my hungry soul and my way to you / You are my only one," it was not hard to understand.

Following renditions of their greatest hits, the band introduced their new single, "Tie You and Your Friend," from the album, "When You're Through Thinking, Say Yes."

The latest effort is Silhouette's seventh studio album, and their first one after taking extra year sabbatical to focus on their personal lives and endeavors.

Memorable encore

"Lights and Sounds" was the final number on the list. "This may be our last song for now, but we will be (back)," Key promised. But even after the lights had been dimmed, deafening chants of "Sir anne more?" filled the venue. Luckily for the insatiable fans, the band was feeling generous, and obliged with an encore.

Silhouette had been leaning toward loud, fast-paced songs throughout the night, so it was a refreshing change when Key sang an acoustic version of "Happy Ignorance." His vocals are pretty generic and even a tongue-relaxing act with many peaks and lesser notes. But what he voice lacks in variety, he makes up for with ample power and range. He sang the word 'all' as he belted the songs last high note — with no flinching, cramping in his face or strained vocals.

And then, for the final final song, Key asked the crowd to summon every ounce of energy for the most awaited number, "Ocean Avenue." Fans went up in the air and stayed there for the single's entirety. It was only fitting that the gig ended with the song that put Silhouette on the mainstream map more than six years ago.

LOGIC, a captivating Australian jazz fusion group, performs in their second "St. Jazzfest."

Secret from Down Under

By Chris Martin
Contributor

HERE the Philippines is in on a secret they don't even know about Down Under. Logic is the name—a captivating five-piece jazz fusion group headed by Melbourne musicians Tim Allison and Glenn Cannon, and appearing in their second "St. Jazzfest."

The band headlined AVERCHAM night, the Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce's tie-in with the month-long festival. If the aim of the festival is to lower music into every conceivable nook, then it is succeeding this time setting up a stage in the top-floor cocktail lair of Makati's Intercon-I hotel.

Billed as "An Exclusive Night with Logic," exclusive being the key word, the gig was less a celebration of jazz than an excuse for the corporate honchos in community to share conversation and canapés.

Still, for those who had come for the music, opening act Jim Mesyuk and friends managed to bring proceedings back down to earth with a good number of the Jazzfest ensembles so far. Mesyuk's band was straightforward but not boring, with its introduction to saxophonist Michael Guevarra.

They delivered a spare but solid set of jazz standards, from "Autumn Leaves" to "Fever/You Met Miss Jones?" It was hardly flawless, but the added talent of Guevarra carried the group along. And so this was just another band that was hopelessly limited—you don't mess up too much with "Fever."

Logic's musicianship is more than old standards, especially Allchorn, who plays the bass like it's a harp. Cross rhythm was the order of the night, and even if there were only a few dozen in the audience, the fact that five of them were shooting members of the first band should be a testament of worthy jazz.

By the time Logic started departure with Cannon's compositions, "Makati," a breakneck improvised tune laid out the last time Down Under bands were in town, they'd engraved their names permanently on the list of the best jazz players to have appeared in the byzantine years of "St. Jazzfest." Members of their own person and effortlessly adaptable to any other

Underwater adventures

NICKELODEON introduces "Bubble Guppies," a new interactive preschool show that features games, stories and songs, airing Thursdays and Fridays beginning March 3 at 8 a.m. The underwater learning adventure stars puppies Molly, Gil, Goby, Deema, Gabe and Nonny and swimming pollywog Peanut.

The bubble-themed also shows how animal-watching penguins Muppet, Kendrick, Rita and Frenny, the fantastic Foonsons at the Central Park Zoo, use their extraordinary abilities in a week of "Penguins of Madagascar" brand new episodes starting March 14 at 6 p.m.

Monsters and madness take over in Aquaopolis and Florida get imprisoned by a genie in "Spongebob's Legendary Tikis Theme," another Nick underwater adventure on March 19 at 7 p.m., with encores on March 19 at 9:30 a.m. and March 20 at 7 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW...

'X Factor' sets US auditions

LOS ANGELES—Auditions for Simon Cowell's "The X Factor" are set to kick off next month in Los Angeles, with cruises following in five other cities.

FOX TV announced Thursday that the auditions at the Los Angeles

SIMON Cowell

Sports Arena will be held March 27. Five cities will be held in Miami, Newark, New Jersey; Seattle; Chicago, and Dallas.

"The X Factor," based on Cowell's British hom, his series and debuting on this this fall, is open to both solo singers and vocal groups. It allows a broader age range for senders, ranches "American Idol." Cowell's previous format. Singers who are 12 years old as of March 1 are eligible and there is no upper age limit.

At stake is a $5 million recording contract. AP

visit: www.smcinema.com

SM CINEMA

metro manila

luzon

visayas • mindanao

HOTLINE: 470.22.22 / WEBSITE: www.smcinema.com

VISIT www.smcinema.com AND PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE.
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED.

OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD AND DRINKS AT ALL SM CINEMA LOBBIES

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

For ticket reservations and showing schedules pls. visit: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

Like us in facebook

GALLERIA

MANILA

METRO EAST

NOVALICHES

FORUM ROBINSONS

SHOWING on MARCH 4

STA ROSA

LIPA

DASMARIÑAS

STARMILLS

IMUS

ANGELES

TACLOBAN

DUMAGUETE

BACOLOD

ILOILO

GENSAN

ILOCOS NORTE

He wears his heart on his sleeve

Wise

Homepage Art

earnest and wistful.

He wrote six of the 12 tracks, a serious endeavor. He wisely set to full orchestration six of the songs that required as best. Maybe Indian-trained producer Christian De Walden insisted—however it happened, the result is endearing. Parson himself were not about to be taken for granted. Besides, Mystic could afford the runs. He is a successful financial and investment consultant... for corporations. "I have helped companies to restructure, turn around, and become profitable again," he told members of the local press recently.

He never stopped singing while he did, either. At his brother's wedding less than two years ago, Alvarez was discovered by Millie Garbanzo, who lost no time in convincing him to consider a recording career. Soon enough, he was recording the demos sung for MIS-CBN's series, "Babe," and then signing a contract with Viva.

Sarah Geronimo and Rachel Ann Go, both Viva talents and two of the country's most successful pop concert artists, are guest performers on "100% Heart," but their closest counterpart here, for the girls do-it-all dimension on the theme, is Parson on "Wish" and Go on "Worth" (a Bee Gees classic). The two other covers, "Angel" (Lisa and Robert) and "Winds of Gold" (Ebiggs) are tuneful picks.

The good news for Jay Alvarez is that he need not engage in such prevalent pronounced boundaries as love-teams and, heaven forbid, scandals. The talent is there; he just needs to keep wearing his heart on his sleeve.

Ernesto D. Velarde

Lin Yu Chun

"It's My Time"; Sony Music

"It's My Time" is a very ape debut album title for Taiwan's Stasia Boyb, 24-year old male soprano Lin Yu Chun. If the sunday score and because people could look only for as long as a man who looks like a fat boy and sings like a woman, at least he got to put out a CD cover of the top climb of this time. Cotton Oliver's "My Heart Will Go On," Mariah Carey's "Hero," Christina Aguilera's "Fighter" and other pop culture anchors elsewhere in the industry.

Interesses get on beat Lin Yu Chun's charge when he sang "Star Spangled Banner" in the Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles last year. He'll find out if his talent outweighs his confidence by the second album, hopefully accompanied by more originals that would chart and be indelibly attributed to him. Or he'll get stuck on studio work doing covers all his life.

Of the phenomenon (boy-tenor with mature-soprano-sized range) may just persist and Lin Yu Chun will turn out to be the

Herlaelli of our age. Minus the castration and the hats, Mollies' rumors good looks.

Manny Espinosa, Contributor

Toni Braxton

"Pulse"; Atlantic

"Pulse," Toni Braxton's sixth album after a long unexplained gap from 2005's "Libra," marks her sweet homage to words the latest ["Lookin' At Me" is a thinly-disguised salute to Beyonce's "Single Ladies"]—her written meaning her knack on the fact that she need not belch slap the conductor and clamp on the orchestra pit to make her rule, and creamy contralto voice came through every time a relationship term had ("Yesterday") or the claps are done. ["Why Won't You Love Me?").

A brief detour in Vegas headlining at the Flamingo, a competitive turn on "Dancing With the Stars," financial troubles and a medical scare or two will certainly and reasonably explain the delay.

But the lack of a cohesive organizing principle to a new album by an artist that ought to have picked up a life lesson or two by now does not help. And vaguely sung ballads and platitudinous lyrics collectively describing the different stages of romantic relationships remains just that, a collection, not an album, and everyone already knows that romance has a beginning, which has a very rapid and excited pulse, a middle or median andorphin plateau, and an end, when the pulse rate for the dead and it's time to move on.

Manny Espinosa, Contributor

Taylor Swift's 'Speak Now' back on No. 1

THE TOWERING albums in the country for the week Feb. 14-20 based on Odyssey Music & Video's nationwide sales report:

Overall

1) Taylor Swift, "Speak Now (Deluxe Edition)," MCA Music; 2) Willie Revillame, "I Love You," Viva Records; 3) Taylor Swift, "Taylor Swift," MCA Music; 4) Bruno Mars, "Doo Wops & Hooligans," Warner Music; 5) Pupil, "Letters Of The Infinity Pool," Sony Music; 6) Willie Revillame, "Willing Willie," Viva Records; 7) Various Artists, "Greatest Valentines 2011," Sony Music; 8) Justin Bieber, "My Worlds: The Collection," MCA Music; 9) Gary Barry, "Teenage Dream," Polydisc Records; 10) Taylor Swift, "Fearless (Platinum Edition)," MCA Music

OPM

1) Willie Revillame, "I Love You," Viva Records; 2) Pupil, "Letters Of The Infinity Pool," Sony Music; 3) Willie Revillame, "Willing Willie," Viva Records; 4) Jovit Baldivino, "Pahiyaling," Star Records; 5) Jed Madela, "The Classics Album," Universal Records; 6) Jovit Baldivino, "I'll Do Anything For Love," Star Records; 7) Bulvan Artists, "By Popular Demand 3," Universal Records; 8) Sharon Cuneta, "Decades 2," Star Records; 10) Gloc 9, "Talampas," Sony Music

odyssey
MUSIC & VIDEO

Ayala Malls

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: I AM NUMBER FOUR (2D)
2: UNKNOWN
3: DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
4: TRUE GRIT
5: FROM PRADA TO NADA
6: JUST GO WITH IT
7: BLACK SWAN

GREENBELT 1

1: UNKNOWN
2: I AM NUMBER FOUR

GREENBELT 2

1: BLACK SWAN
2: I AM NUMBER FOUR (2D)
3: UNKNOWN
4: DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
5: TRUE GRIT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: UNKNOWN
2: I AM NUMBER FOUR (2D)
3: DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
4: FROM PRADA TO NADA
5: BLACK SWAN

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1: RESERVED
2: UNKNOWN
3: DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
4: BLACK SWAN

MARQUEE

1: I AM NUMBER FOUR
2: DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
3: UNKNOWN
4: BLACK SWAN

MARKET! MARKET!

1: DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
2: I AM NUMBER FOUR
3: UNKNOWN
4: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6: BLACK SWAN
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA

1: FROM PRADA TO NADA
2: TRUE GRIT
3: I AM NUMBER FOUR (2D)
4: DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
5: JUST GO WITH IT
6: BLACK SWAN
7: UNKNOWN

Reserve your tickets by texting **SureSeats to 2910** (for Globe and Smart) or log on to **WWW.sureseats.com** for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

MOVIE SPECIAL

EXPERIENCE IT BEST
NOW SHOWING at AYALA MALLS CINEMAS
3D
DIGITAL CINEMAS

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

BONIFACIO HIGH STREET

MARKET! MARKET!

TRINOMA

MARQUEE

CINEMAS

MALL SPECIAL

It's always U-First at Ayala Malls.

gloriatta · Greenbelt · Town · Ayala Center Cebu · Marquee · TriNoma · MARQUEE

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2948

Not a vamp, not a cheating heart

Angel Aquino insists no third party was involved in her breakup with Lui Villaruz

By Rayvi Ian Dingo jr.

ACTRESS Angel Aquino says the rumor that her relationship with actor Lui Villaruz ended because of an older rich guy bothered her.

"I was worried that people would believe it," she said during the 10th anniversary party for her Studio 23 lifestyle show, "Us Girls." "But worked hard all these years to maintain a positive image. I trust that the truth will eventually come out."

Moving on

She refused to speak further. "He made me smile. He made me laugh. But it was time to move on for the sake of us."

They aren't exactly chummy, but they've stopped hostilities.

"Recently, he told me that he was saving a girl from the Mina Earth pageant. I'm happy for him. I want him to have a peaceful and happy life."

She herself is in no hurry to jump into another relationship, and has resisted the man she was linked to, precisely to avoid ire and hurt in the ties.

Intrigue-mongers have said she would have an affair for the money to nail Mr., she's too vainglo Miss, but character on the ABS-CBN soap "Magkaribal."

"Why would I do that now? I have two teenaged daughters," she explained.

Recently, Angel joined the star-studded cast of Jerlliane Mendoza's "Prey"—which topbills French actress Isabelle Huppert, supported by a powerhouse cast from the local indie scene (Chris Reinier Lucaya to Sid Lucero, Iwan Araña, Lin de la Marta Isabel Lopez).

"Isabelle is luminous," Angel recalled. "She always said 'Thank you' after our scenes. It was her way of acknowledging that she was feeling on our energy in our scenes together."

Angel, who worked with Brillante in 2006's "Kaleldo," said the Cannes-winning director seemed to have "become more fearless."

In the scene, Brillante asked Angel, a mama in the movie, to fondly deliver a baby for stall.

"It was a beautiful, magical experience," she said.

ANGEL Aquino

PH artists need 1st class upgrade

Dolly Anne Carvajal

DOLLY WOOD

ONE OF my fave Facebook friends is talented Dennis Garcia (of Siakol). He once quipped that there are two kinds of people in the world: those who are always giving excuses, and those who are always giving solutions.

Obviously, I belong to the latter group. Hehehe.

Dennis is also a fellow Pinoy recording artists who—second that emotion. We'll say I must be nuts. I'll say you must be blind. Or dead. Or both.

But consider this: when you turn on your radio to listen to some fresh contemporary music, (hanaw ang puso?) how many Filipino-language songs do you hear? Not many, right?

Sorry, not true. Until you realize that you hardly hear anything homegrown. And that's the crux of this second-class citizen gripe. Local radio is acting like it's allergic to Original Pinoy Music. Aray. Dennis' legendary chart-topping hit is now spot on the radio dial to play four Pinoy tunes every hour . . . but this is largely ignored. And keenly observed.

"And the stations' excuses are so flimsy and shallow. 'There's not enough local material.' 'It just doesn't fit with our format.' 'Listeners don't request for them.' 'They play it enough on your mobile station.'

"We have . . . Hello, are. This is the Philippines. It's the imported tunes that should be given an airplay quota of four times every hour. For the other way around. It's the homegrown songs that should dominate the airwaves. (The way it's happening in Indonesia and Thailand and Malaysia. And in just about every country in the world.)

"Last time I checked, Pinoy singers, musicians and songwriters are no less talented than their foreign counterparts as why current. Certainly, I don't have exposure on those radio? That disturbing colonial mentality (or would 'hostage syndrome' be a more apt phrase?) must be a source of delight for the dominant record companies which are, conventionally, mostly controlled by foreign conglomerates—since they what I call P2BP (Proud 2 Be Pinoy) labels like Vicor, Alpha, UMM and Star Records. Plus some exciting new players like Terno.

"So you will expect International recognition for our talented musicians and songwriters? Don't hold your breath. Our poor artists are slightly unfocused, slightly divided—busy fighting for scraps, when, simply in their own home court.

"Getting an upgrade to first class on this business is not a slash. But it's something that's yours for a song."

Buboy and Shine's 11th

The couple shared in my hood, Cesar and Sandrine Morenos, celebrated their 11th anniversary last Feb. 24 (secret wedding). They got married there. The second time was on Sept. 14, 2000, at the Coconut Palace and the third, an underwater wedding, took place in Trang, Thailand, on Feb. 14, 2005.

They had a romantic Japanese dinner at Ishi Bistro (The first) to mark their 11th year together. What are their anniversary gifts to each other? "Buboy's Hummer that I hate. Long story." Or what the f*** is he doing to me, and Shine. "That's why I'm excited to learn to drive. My gift to him is an SV bag. Wish or without gifts, what's important is we understand each other. Goodness we have so much to be thankful for."

What are the 11 things/places that are most memorable to them as a couple? "Ibiza" the music, Barbatos, Spiral in Milan, Lotus River, Japanese food, Blue Bistro where we had our first date, Bellagio Hanoverre, Thrill Rentals, Coconut Palace, Trang, Thailand and our Caribbean cruise honeymoon."

The Montanos have a million happy memories and are still counting.

E-mail: scarvajal@abs-cbn.com

... AND COUNTING. Cesar Montano and Sandrine Cruz celebrate the 11th year of their first wedding last Feb. 24.

ONE OF PINOY ROCK'S GREATEST.
ONE LAST TIME ON STAGE.
SEE IT ALL ON WATCHPAD'S MYMUSIC CHANNEL.

Your chance to relive some of Pinoy rock's greatest moments is set on March 1, at 8pm. PLDT Watchpad will stream Sugarfree's farewell concert "Paalam Pilipinas" on myMusic channel live and free for all myDSL subscribers.

myMusic gives you the right to enjoy all the OPM you want through chart-topping hits, the latest music videos, the hottest Pinoy bands, concerts, and more! Make sure to stay tuned for details on events still to be featured, including the Urban Music Awards. With all these and more, Watchpad truly is more awesome. It continues to amp up its roster of new channels like BigTick TV and Mega Fashion channel, so watch out for new channels and shows soon.

Watch Urban Music Awards 2011 highlights and more on myMusic channel.

Sugarfree thanks their loyal fans with "Paalam Pilipinas", their final concert. Streamed live on Watchpad's myMusic channel.

Watchpad, PLDT myDSL's online entertainment portal, lets you enjoy free TV channels, movies and other exclusive content. You can also watch your favorite shows while on Facebook, Twitter and Multiply. Not yet on Watchpad? Register now for free at www.pldtwatchpad.com